

SPORTS PINK

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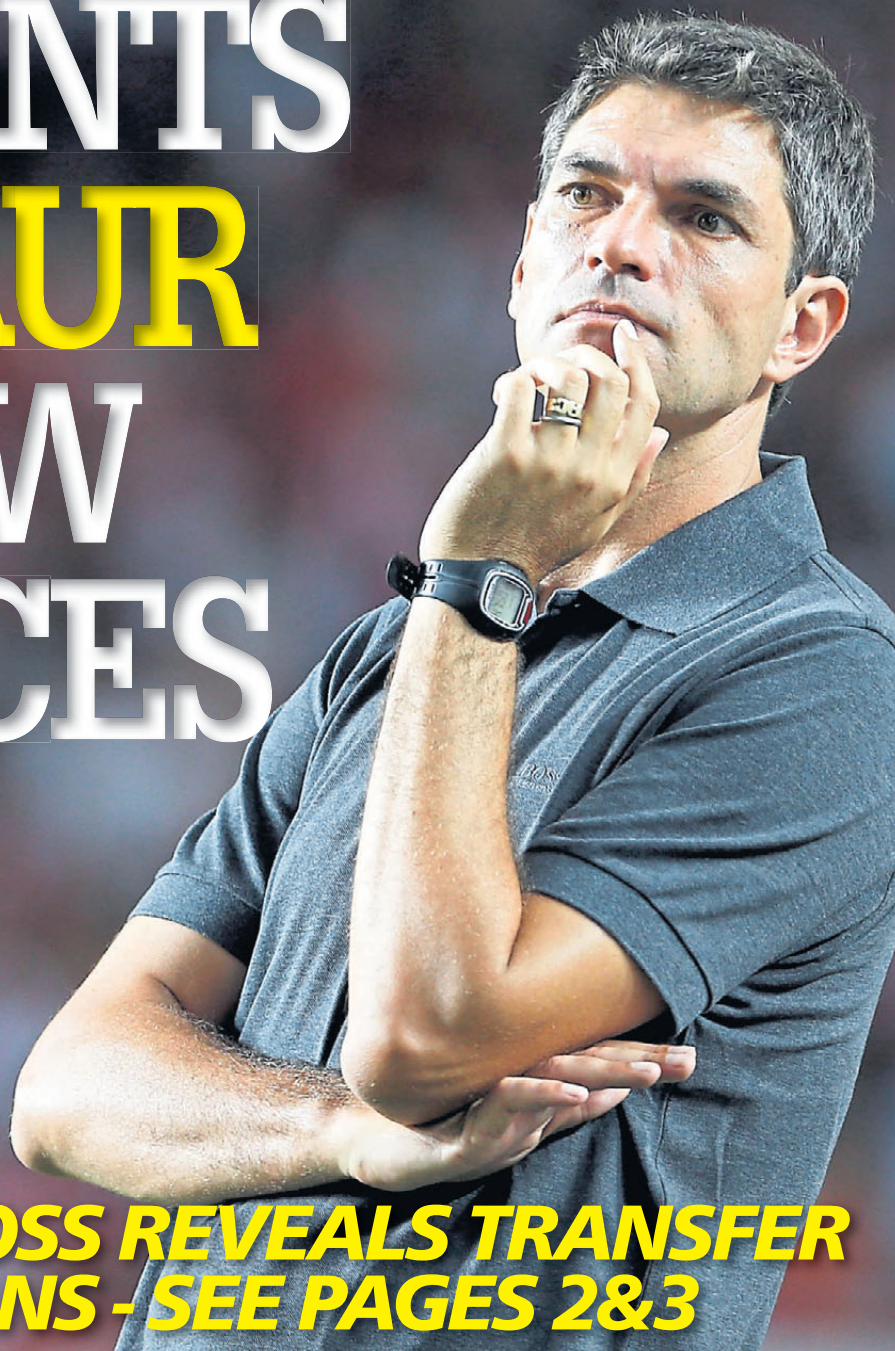
Home of Hampshire sport July 22 2017



see pages 14-17

Just good
friendlies!

PELLEGRINO WANTS MAUR NEW FACES



**NEW BOSS REVEALS TRANSFER
PLANS - SEE PAGES 2&3**



**Eight pages of
top non league
coverage inside**

SEE PAGES 6-13



**Hampshire and
local cricket in
the spotlight**

SEE PAGES 26-33



**Six pages of
youth football
nostalgia**

SEE PAGES 34-39

Premier League ins & outs 2017 AFC Bournemouth

In: Asmir Begovic (Chelsea, £9m), Frankie Vincent (Barnet, free), Jermain Defoe (Sunderland, free), Nathan Ake (Chelsea, £20m), Connor Mahoney (Blackburn, tribunal)

Out: Callum Buckley, Jake McCarthy, Matt Neale (All released), Mark Travers (Weymouth, loan), Ryan Allsop (Blackpool, loan).

Arsenal

In: Sead Kolasinac (Schalke, free), Alexandre Lacazette (Lyon, £52.7m)
Out: Takuma Asano (Stuttgart, loan), Stefan O'Connor (Newcastle, free), Chris Willock (Benfica, undisclosed), Marc Bola (Bristol Rovers, loan), Kaylen Hinds (Wolfsburg, undisclosed), Glen Kamara (Dundee, free), Wojciech Szczesny (Juventus, £11m), Yaya Sanogo (Toulouse, released)

Brighton

In: Josh Kerr (Celtic, Undisclosed), Mathew Ryan (Valencia, £5m), Markus Suttner (Ingolstadt, £3.8m), Pascal Gross (Ingolstadt, £2.5m), Mathias Normann (FK Bodø/Glimt, undisclosed)
Out: Vegard Forren (released), Chris O'Grady (Chesterfield, undisclosed), David Stockdale (Birmingham, free), Rob Hunt (Oldham, undisclosed), Christian Walton (Wigan, loan), Jordan Maguire-Drew (Lincoln, loan), Elvis Manu (Genterbirli, free).

Burnley

In: Charlie Taylor (Leeds, tribunal), Jon Walters (Stoke, £1.0m), Jack Cork (Swansea, £7.7m)
Out: Michael Keane (Everton, £30million), Joey Barton (released), Michael Kightly (released), Josh Ginnelly (Lincoln, loan), George Boyd (Sheffield Wednesday, free), Rouven Hennings (Fortuna Dusseldorf, free), Paul Robinson (retired)

Chelsea

In: Tiemoue Bakayoko (Monaco, £34m), Antonio Rudiger (Roma, £29m), Willy Caballero (Manchester City, free), Ethan Ampadu (Exeter, compensation)
Out: John Terry (Aston Villa, free), Alex Davey (released), Asmir Begovic (Bournemouth, free), Dominic Solanke (Liverpool, tribunal), Juan Cuadrado (Juventus, £17m), Christian Atsu (Newcastle, £6.2m), Bertrand Traore (Lyon, £8.8m), Tammy Abraham (Swansea, loan), Nathan Ake (Bournemouth, £20m), Charlie Colkett (Vitesse Arnhem, loan), Todd Kane (Groningen, loan), Josimar Quintero (FC Rostov, loan), Kasey Palmer (Huddersfield, loan), Marco van Ginkel (PSV Eindhoven, loan), Lucas Piazon (Fulham, loan), Nathaniel Chalobah (Watford, £4.85m), Ruben Loftus-Cheek (Crystal Palace, loan), Ola Aina (Hull, loan), Ike Ugbo (Barnsley, loan), Mukhtar Ali (Vitesse Arnhem, undisclosed)

Crystal Palace

In: Ruben Loftus-Cheek (Crystal Palace, loan)
Out: Kwesi Appiah (AFC Wimbledon, free), Luke Croll (Exeter, free), Zeki Fryers (Barnsley, free), Steve Mandanda (Marseille, undisclosed), Steve Mandanda (Marseille, £6.8m), Fraizer Campbell (Hull, free), Joe Ledley (released), Mathieu Flamini (released).

Everton

In: Wayne Rooney (Manchester United, free), Davy Klaassen (Ajax, £23.6m), Jordan Pickford (Everton, £25m rising to £30m), Michael Keane (Burnley, £20m, rising to £30m), Sandro Ramirez (Malaga, £5.2m), Henry Onyekuru (Eupen, £7m), Mathias Jorgensen (FC Copenhagen, £3.5m), Cuco Martina (Saints, free)

Continued on facing page

SAINTS

Signings for

Adam Leitch



MAURICIO Pellegrino is eyeing potential new signings as he looks to add to his Saints squad this summer.

The new St Mary's boss admits it has been difficult to fully assess the assets at his disposal with extended holidays due to international games meaning some players have not yet returned for pre-season.

Pellegrino gets another week away with his stars in France next week and has refused to rule out dipping into the transfer market before the new season begins.

"Always you can improve the squad but it depends not just on beliefs or ideas but on the market too, the budget, the fees, the salaries. A lot of things," he said.

"There are some positions I would like to bring some options but it's not easy for us to compete for players with quality."

Pellegrino has plenty to contend with in his early days at Saints, not least the transfer saga surrounding Virgil van Dijk, who will train alone at Staplewood rather than go with the rest of the squad to France.

But right now he is trying to maintain a sharp focus on overcoming any obstacles and getting his ideas across.

"We got a couple of viruses," he reflected. "One was really bad when we were in Austria and the majority of the squad, including the employer, were involved. More than ten persons were with trouble."

"We got another virus that was the dynamic of the team, working really hard, preparing every training session with really nice dynamics."

"We had to forget one virus and be focussed on the other one."

He added: "It is not easy because we are receiving the players in different groups, but I can see the dynamic from the beginning was really good."

"The players have a lot of concentration, with attention to learn, and it was easy for me because they are really open minded from the beginning."

"The second step is to bring in everybody, and at the end of the next week everybody will be here which will be great news for me because it is not about just to give some concept and trying, but how they will feel training in a different way."

"Some players can improve but maybe some others don't like the way of the new manager and this is something we can create dy-



Mauricio Pellegrino during the pre-season friendly match between FC Southampton and St. Gallen at Sportanlage Kellen on July 15.

namics to allow the players to feel happy on the pitch."

When asked what new ideas he was trying to instill, Pellegrino re-

plied: "For me I try to translate to the player that I believe more in the quality than the quantity."

"What means quality? You have

to put your mind to training and not just your body, because every day there are lots of ways to train, but when you are 100 per cent on the pitch focussed it is different."

"When you start in university you can study for four or five hours, but if you are not focussed it doesn't matter. When you focus 100 per cent and taking your notes in silence, good mood, good atmosphere, it is completely different. In training sessions it is the same."

"When you are there at 100 per cent and pushing to improve small things, little by little, because as an individual maybe you have a limit, but the dynamic as a team is unlimited and you can always improve."

Pellegrino has a tricky job trying to improve upon Saints' last few seasons that has seen them finish sixth, seventh and eighth, but he insists he is not measuring it purely by numbers.

"I will be happy when I think that the people are happy," he admitted.

SAINTS

Saints?



"One of the best moments in my life as a player was when the crowd clapped the players after losing, because the players are giving every-

thing and the people thinking I identify with them.

"I will be a success with this.

"Obviously I want to win

because if you don't win I have to move and they have to bring in another one. This is the rule of my job. It is clear."

Premier League ins & outs 2017

Continued from facing page

Out: Romelu Lukaku (Manchester United, £75m), Tom Cleverley (Watford, undisclosed), Delial Brewster (Chesterfield, free), Conor McAleny (Fleetwood, free), Josef Yarney (Newcastle, free), Brendan Gallagher (Sunderland, loan), Henry Onyekuru (Anderlecht, loan), Gerard Deulofeu (Barcelona, £10.6m), Aiden McGeady (Sunderland, undisclosed), Courtney Duffus (Oldham, undisclosed), Matthew Pennington (Leeds, loan), Joe Williams (Barnsley, loan).

Huddersfield Town

In: Elias Kachunga (Ingolstadt, £1.2m), Laurent Depoitre (Porto, £3.4m), Steve Mounie (Montpellier, £11.4m), Kasey Palmer (Chelsea, loan), Tom Ince (Derby, £7m), Jonas Loss (Mainz, loan), Aaron Mooy (Manchester City, £10m), Scott Malone (Fulham, £3.2m), Danny Williams (Reading, free), Mathias Jorgensen (FC Copenhagen, £3.5m)
Out: Kyle Dempsey (Fleetwood, undisclosed), Jordy Hiwula (Fleetwood, loan), Tareiq Holmes-Dennis (Portsmouth, loan)

Leicester City

In: Harry Maguire (Hull, £17m), Vincent Iborra (Sevilla, £10.5m), Eldin Jakupovic (Hull, £2.25m).
Out: Marcin Wasilewski (released), Cedric Kipre (Motherwell, free), Bartosz Kapustka (Freiburg, loan)

Liverpool

In: Dominik Solanke (tribunal), Mohamed Salah (Roma, £34m)
Out: Lucas Leiva (Lazio, £5m), Andre Wisdom (Derby, £1.95m), Ryan Fulton (Hamilton, free).

Manchester City

In: Bernardo Silva (Monaco, £42m), Ederson (Benfica, £35m), Kyle Walker (Tottenham, £45m), Douglas Luiz (Vasco Da Gama, £10m)
Out: Joe Hart (West Ham, loan), Pablo Zabaleta (released), Gael Clichy (released), Jesus Navas (released), Willy Caballero (released), Bacary Sagna (released), Angus Gunn (Norwich, loan), Enes Unal (Valencia, £12m), Aaron Mooy (Huddersfield, £10m), Nolito (Sevilla, £7.9m), Bersant Celina (Ipswich, loan), Ruben Sobrino (Alaves, undisclosed), Joe Coveney (Nottingham Forest, free), Olivier Ntcham (Celtic, undisclosed), Ashley Smith-Brown (Hearts, loan).

Manchester United

In: Victor Lindelof (Benfica, £31m), Romelu Lukaku (Everton, £75m)
Out: Zlatan Ibrahimovic (released), Josh Harrop (Preston, undisclosed), Wayne Rooney (Everton, free), Sam Johnstone (Aston Villa, loan), Adnan Januzaj (Real Sociedad, £9.8m), Regan Poole (Northampton, loan), Dean Henderson (Shrewsbury, loan).

Newcastle United

In: Jacob Murphy (Norwich, £12m), Christian Atsu (Chelsea, £6.2m), Josef Yarney (Everton, free, development squad), Stefan O'Connor (Arsenal, free, development squad), Florian Lejeune (Eibar, £8.7m)
Out: Florian Thauvin (Marseille, £9.3m), Matz Sels (Anderlecht, season loan), Alex Gilliead (Bradford, loan), Sammy Ameobi (Bolton, free), Yoan Gouffran (Goztepe, free), Haris Vuckic (Twente, free), Adam

Armstrong (Bolton, loan), Alex Gilliead (Bradford, loan)

Saints

In: Jan Bednarek (Lech Poznan, £5m)
Out: Jay Rodriguez (West Brom, £14m), Jason McCarthy (Barnsley, £200,000), Lloyd Isgrove (Barnsley, free), Harrison Reed (Norwich, loan), Cuco Martina (Everton, free), Martin Caceres, Harley Willard (all released), Harry Lewis (Dundee United, loan)

Stoke City

In: Darren Fletcher (West Brom, free), Josh Tymon (Hull, undisclosed)
Out: Daniel Bachmann (Watford, free), Liam Edwards, Harry Isted, Shay Given, Joel Taylor (all released), Jon Walters (Burnley, £1.9m), Glenn Whelan (Aston Villa, £2m).

Swansea City

In: Roque Mesa (Las Palmas, £11m), Tammy Abraham (Chelsea, loan), Cian Harries (Coventry, undisclosed), Erwin Mulder (Heerenveen, free)
Out: Jack Cork (Burnley, £7.7m), Alex Samuel (Stevenage, undisclosed), Frank Tabanou, Marvin Emnes, Liam Shephard, Gerhard Tremmel (all released), Josh Vickers (Lincoln, free), Borja Baston (Malaga, loan), Liam Edwards (Hull, free), Daniel James (Shrewsbury, loan), Keston Davies (Yeovil, loan), Liam Shephard (Peterborough, free), Bafetimbi Gomis (Galatasaray, £2m), Jordi Amat (Real Betis, loan), Connor Roberts (Middlesbrough, loan).

Tottenham Hotspur

In: None
Out: Charlie Owens (QPR, free), Kyle Walker (Manchester City, £45m), Federico Fazio (Roma, £2.7m), Luke McGee (Portsmouth, undisclosed), Nabil Bentaleb (Shalke, £16m), Clinton N'jie (Marseille, £5.95m), Federico Fazio (Roma, £2.7m), Connor Ogilvie (Gillingham, loan).

Watford

In: Tom Cleverley (Everton, £7.9m), Will Hughes (Derby County, £7.7m), Daniel Bachmann (Stoke, free), Kiko Femenia (Alaves, free), Nathaniel Chalobah (Chelsea, £4.85m), Sam Howes (West Ham, undisclosed).
Out: Rene Gilmartin (Colchester, free), Dennon Lewis (Crawley, loan), Mario Suarez (Guizhou Hengfeng Zhicheng, undisclosed)

West Brom

In: Jay Rodriguez (Saints, £14m), Zhang Yuning (Vitesse, £5.7m), Ahmed Hegazi (Al Ahly, loan)
Out: Darren Fletcher (Stoke, free), Craig Gardner (Birmingham, undisclosed), Callam Jones, Jack Rose, Andre Wright (all released)

West Ham

In: Pablo Zabaleta (Manchester City, free), Joe Hart (Manchester City, loan).
Out: Havard Nordtveit (Hoffenheim, £5.95m), Enner Valencia (Tigres, undisclosed), Reece Oxford (Borussia Monchengladbach, loan), Raphael Spiegel (Boavista, free), Stephen Hendrie (Southend, free), Alvaro Arbeloa (released), Sam Howes (Watford, undisclosed), George Dobson (Sparta Rotterdam, undisclosed)

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PREMIER LEAGUE



Championship ins and outs 2017

Aston Villa

In: John Terry (Chelsea, free), Glenn Whelan (Stoke, £1m), Ahmed Elmohamady (Hull, £1m)
Out: Libor Kozak (Released)

Barnsley

In: Zeki Fryers (free), Jason McCarthy (Saints, undisclosed), Cameron McGeehan (Luton Town, undisclosed), Lloyd Isgrove (Saints, free), Liam Lindsay (free), Ethan Pincock (Forest Green Rovers, undisclosed), Joe Williams (Everton, loan)
Out: Lewin Nyatanga (released), Aidan White (released), Ryan Williams (Rotherham United, undisclosed), Marley Watkins (Norwich City, free), Cole Kpekawa (Colchester United, undisclosed), Elliot Lee (cancelled contract), Marc Roberts (Birmingham City, undisclosed), Josh Scowen (QPR, free)

Birmingham City

In: David Stockdale (Brighton, free), Cheikh Ndoeye (Angers, free), Marc Roberts (Barnsley, undisclosed), Dan Scarr (Stourbridge, undisclosed)
Out: Charlee Adams (released), Koby Arthur (released), Paul Caddis (Blackburn, free)

Bolton Wanderers

In: Sammy Ameobi (free), Adam Armstrong (Newcastle United, loan), Will Buckley (free), Stephen Darby (free), Mark Little (Bristol City, free)
Out: Lewis Buxton (released), Mark Davies (released), Liam Trotter (released), Reece Wabara (released), Lawrie Wilson (released), Dean Moxey (Exeter, free), Max Clayton (Blackpool, free)

Brentford

In: Neal Maupay (St Etienne, undisclosed), Kamohelo Mokotjo (FC Twente, undisclosed), Ollie Watkins (Exeter, £1.8m)
Out: James Ferry (Stevenage, undisclosed), Philipp Hofmann (Greuter Furth, undisclosed)

Bristol City

In: Eros Pisano (Hellas Verona, free), Mamara Diedhiou (Angers, £5.3m)
Out: Mark Little (Bolton Wanderers, free), Lee Tomlin (Cardiff City, undisclosed)

Burton Albion

In: Stephen Warnock (Wigan Athletic, free), Jake Buxton (Wigan Athletic, free), Liam Boyce (Ross County, undisclosed), Hope Akpan (Blackburn, free)
Out: Jon McLaughlin (released), Lee Williamson (released), Sam Hornby (Port Vale, free), Marcus Harness (Port Vale, loan), Tom Flanagan (released), Marcus Harness (Port Vale, loan)

Cardiff City

In: Callum Paterson (Hearts, free), Danny Ward (Rotherham United, undisclosed), Lee Tomlin (Bristol City, undisclosed), Loic Damour (Bourg-Peronnas, free), Lee Camp (Rotherham United, free)
Out: Semi Ajayi (Rotherham United, undisclosed), Adam le Fondre (Bolton, free), Peter Whittingham (Blackburn, free), Deji Oshilaja (AFC Wimbledon, free), Rickie Lambert (contract cancelled)

Derby County

In: Tom Huddlestone (Hull City, undisclosed), Andre Wisdom (Liverpool, undisclosed)
Out: Alefe Santos (released), Will Hughes (Watford, undisclosed), Tom Ince (Huddersfield Town, undisclosed), Cyrus Christie (Middlesbrough, undisclosed), Abdoul Camara (Guincamp, free)

Ibrahim Cisse

In: Ibrahima Cisse (Standard Liege, undisclosed), Marcelo Djaló (Lugo, undisclosed)

Continued on facing page

£381m spent - and no doubt more to come



Romelu Lukaku

The 2017-18 Premier League season begins in under a month. Here, the Sports Pink takes a look at some of the vital numbers ahead of the new campaign:

7

Chelsea's winning margin over Tottenham last season - with the rest of the chasing pack needing to make up at least 15 points on Antonio Conte's side.

£381million

approximate transfer fees already paid out by last season's top six, excluding compensation fees paid by Liverpool for Dominic Solanke and Chelsea for Ethan Ampadu.

£75m

the reported fee for Manchester United's new striker, Romelu Lukaku.

4

times promoted Huddersfield have broken their transfer record so far this summer, for Laurent Depoitre, Tom Ince, Aaron Mooy and Steve Mounie.

3

successive seasons in which Harry Kane has been the Premier League's leading English goalscorer. The Tottenham striker has won the Golden Boot outright for the last two years.

5

appearances needed for Everton

midfielder Gareth Barry to surpass Ryan Giggs' all-time Premier League record of 632. He is also just 464 minutes shy of Tim Howard's record for playing time in the competition since its rebranding in 1992.

2

Wayne Rooney is two goals shy of his Premier League double century - as well as three bookings away from joining Barry as only the second player in three figures.

15/8

Manchester City are widely regarded as the short-priced favourites for the title. Manchester United and Chelsea can be backed at around 7/2.

Giggs hails United's youth reputation

Sir Alex the catalyst for club's great academy

Simon Peach

Ryan Giggs believes Manchester United's reputation for giving kids a chance has helped the club's academy become the biggest producer of Premier League talent.

A study conducted by Press Association Sport found that United's academy graduates last season racked up more top-flight minutes than players coming from any other system across the world.

There were 35 players who emerged from United's youth ranks and featured in the Premier League last season, with significant playing time for Red Devils stars Paul Pogba, Marcus Rashford and Jesse Lingard as well as West Brom captain Darren Fletcher, Burnley pair Tom Heaton and Michael Keane and Leicester's Danny Drinkwater and Danny Simpson.

Giggs, 43, was another who graduated from the same set-up around the time David Beckham, Paul Scholes, Nicky Butt and Gary and Phil Neville also came



Ryan Giggs

through under Sir Alex Ferguson's watch.

And the Premier League's all-time record appearance holder believes United's long-standing willingness to put faith in their own is what sets them apart.

"I think you have to go back to when Sir Alex first joined the club and overhauled the whole youth system," the Welshman said.

"He made sure there was a path-

way for young, local players to get into the first team. From then on the youth system and that pathway to the first team has just got stronger and stronger.

"Then there is the coaching, the way they are looked after, the way first-team players look after the young players coming into the team.

"There's a number of reasons, but I think you have to go back 30

years ago to when it all started."

In all, United's academy graduates accumulated 44,055 minutes in the Premier League last term, more than double the amount any other club accounted for, with Tottenham the next biggest contributors with 21,668 minutes.

Giggs was a one-club man who enjoyed a decorated career at Old Trafford but many of those professionals who departed, such as Fletcher, Keane and Drinkwater, have still enjoyed fruitful spells elsewhere following their United education.

"When a coach is looking to sign a young player - and I know this from experience of ex- teammates who have gone on to manage - they know what the players have been through (at United), the training, the grounding, what they have learned on and off the pitch," Giggs explained.

"It's a no-brainer if they've got ability, which most of them have, to pick a United player. You know their pedigree, you know what you are going to get, you know how they've been coached, that they know how to play football the right way.

"And of course there's that bit of, 'All right, I'll show United they shouldn't have let me go', which is what you want. (It's) not sulking, but saying, 'I'll show them what they are missing'.

"It's great to see. As a club you take pride in that; okay they've not made it at United, but they've still gone away and made successful careers for themselves."

It is a truly remarkable fact that United have played 3,867 consecutive first team games with a squad including at least one home-grown player. The last time they didn't was back in October 1937.

PREMIER LEAGUE



Homegrown stars 2016/17 - key facts

● Arsenal topped the charts in terms of playing time for homegrown players, with Hector Bellerin, Francis Coquelin, Alex Iwobi, Kieran Gibbs, Emiliano Martinez and Ainsley Maitland-Niles combining for 6,628 minutes - 19.4 per cent of the Gunners' total.

● Manchester United used the most of their own academy products, 10, but their total playing time was less. Joel Pereira, Demetri Mitchell and Josh Harrop played just one game apiece, with Scott McTominay adding 96 minutes and Timothy Fosu-Mensah 94 while Angel Gomes became the first Premier League player born in the 21st century, but featured for only two minutes.

! The biggest contributor to United's total was

Paul Pogba, who was allowed to leave the club after first breaking into the team and was re-signed last summer at a world-record cost of £89million.

● At the other end of the scale, Burnley and Swansea did not use any of their own academy products.

● Bournemouth, Liverpool and Stoke also gave less than one per cent of their playing time to players developed in-house. The Cherries, though, used the highest proportion of players developed in the UK at 90.3 per cent of their playing time.

● Burnley were the only team to exclusively use

players who completed their development in Europe.

● Manchester City used just one of their own academy products - Kelechi Iheanacho for 526 minutes, of 1.4 per cent of their total - and recorded the lowest totals of minutes by players developed in the UK (14 per cent). They used only four players who graduated from UK-based academies, with Raheem Sterling (Liverpool), John Stones (Barnsley) and Fabian Delph (Leeds) joining Iheanacho.

● The top six teams in the league - Chelsea, Tottenham, City, Liverpool, Arsenal and United - all finished in the bottom eight in terms of minutes played by UK-developed players.

Gunners top academy table

Simon Carter



Arsenal leaned more heavily on their academy than any other Premier League club last season.

The investigation discovered that 19.4 per cent of Arsenal's total top-flight minutes were played by graduates of their youth set-up, with six players contributing to that tally.

Manchester United fielded more of their own academy graduates than any other top-flight side - 10 - but as a percentage of minutes played overall that equated to 17.1 per cent, with a number of youngsters fielded in the run-in as the Europa League became manager Jose Mourinho's priority.

The Press Association study looked at which academies players finished their youth careers at, with playing time calculated from publicly available data on soccerway.com.

Of the Arsenal six, only Kieran Gibbs and Ainsley Maitland-Niles are still eligible to play for England. Maitland-Niles was part of England's victorious squad at the Under-20 World Cup earlier this summer.

The single biggest contributor to the Arsenal homegrown tally was Spanish full-back Hector Bellerin, who played 2,498 league minutes.

Bournemouth had the highest percentage of players developed in the UK youth system in their total, at 90.3 per



James Ward-Prowse topped Saints' home-grown players' league minutes in 2016/17.

cent. However, the Cherries' own academy accounted for only 0.1 per cent thanks to a single substitute appearance apiece for Bailey Cargill and Matt Worthington.

Saints' academy players accounted for 14,340 top flight minutes last season.

But only 3,135 of them were made by players for Saints - James Ward-Prowse (1,884), Sam McQueen (608), Matt Tarrant (374), Josh Sims (206) and Harrison Reed (63).

Arsenal trio Theo Walcott (1,924), Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain (1,562) and Calum Cham-

bers (2,160 - most of them on loan to Middlesbrough) accounted for over 5,000 minutes.

Other ex-Saints academy products were Cherries duo Andrew Surman (1,803) and Tyrone Mings (505). Adam Lallana (2,349), Luke Shaw (691) and Nathan Dyer (211).

Burnley were the only side to use players developed exclusively in the UK or Europe, with UK-developed players accounting for 85 per cent.

However, the Claret's were one of only two sides who did not give a single minute

of action to one of their own academy products, along with Swansea.

Manchester City had the lowest total of UK-developed players, with just 14 per cent of their minutes played total made up of footballers from the UK system.

They also had the greatest proportion - 41 per cent - of players developed outside Europe.

Kelechi Iheanacho was the only City academy graduate to be used in the league by Pep Guardiola, and even then for a paltry 526 minutes.

Championship ins and outs

Continued from facing page

Out: Larnell Cole (released), Jack Grimmer (released), Jesse Joronen (Horsens, free), Scott Malone (Huddersfield Town, £3.3m), Scott Parker (retired), Richard Stearman (Sheffield United, undisclosed), Ryan Tunnicliffe (released), Lasse Vigen Christensen (Brøndby, undisclosed)

Hull City

In: Liam Edwards (free), Fraizer Campbell (Crystal Palace, free)
Out: Harry Maguire (Leicester, £17m), Tom Huddlestone (Derby County, undisclosed), Harvey Rodgers (Fleetwood Town, free), Josh Tymon (released), Eldin Jakupovic (Leicester, undisclosed), Ahmed Elmohamady (Aston Villa, £1m)

Ipswich Town

In: Tom Adeyemi (Cardiff City, free), Joe Garner (Rangers, free)
Out: Kundai Benyu (Celtic, undisclosed), Leon Best (released), Giles Coke (released), Jonathan Douglas (released), Brett Pitman (Portsmouth, undisclosed), Joe Robinson (released)

Leeds United

In: Mateusz Klich (FC Twente, undisclosed), Felix Wiedwald (Werder Bremen, undisclosed), Caleb Ekuban (Chievo, undisclosed), Vurnon Anita (free), Samuel Saiz Alonso (Huesca, undisclosed), Ergjan Alloski (FC Lugano, undisclosed), Matthew Pennington (Everton, loan)
Out: Jordan Botaka (Sint-Truidense VV, free), Ross Turnbull (released), Billy Whitehouse (released), Giuseppe Belussi (cancelled contract), Alex Purver (released), Jack Vann (released), Charlie Taylor (Burnley, undisclosed)

Middlesbrough

In: Britt Assombalonga (Nottingham Forest, £14m), Martin Braithwaite (Toulouse, undisclosed), Cyrus Christie (Derby County, undisclosed), Jonny Howson (Norwich City, undisclosed)
Out: Bernado Espinosa (Girona, undisclosed), Viktor Fischer (Mainz, undisclosed), James Husband (Norwich City, undisclosed), Callum Cooke (Blackpool, loan)

Millwall

In: Conor McLaughlin (Fleetwood Town, undisclosed), Tom Elliott (AFC Wimbledon, free), George Saville (Wolves, undisclosed)
Out: Gregg Wylie (Plymouth Argyle, free), David Forde (Cambridge, free), Alfie Pavey (released), Joe Martin (Stevenage, free)

Norwich City

In: Marley Watkins (Barnsley, free), Marcel Franke (Greuther Furth, undisclosed), James Husband (Middlesbrough, undisclosed)
Out: Sebastian Bassong (released), Ryan Bennett (Wolverhampton Wanderers, free), Kyle Lafferty (Hearts, free), Youssuf Mulumbu (released), John Ruddy (released), Steve Whittaker (released), Graham Dorrans (Rangers,

undisclosed), Jonny Howson (Middlesbrough, undisclosed), Declan Rudd (Preston North End, undisclosed)

Nottingham Forest

In: Jason Cummings (Hibernian, free), Barrie McKay (Rangers, undisclosed)
Out: Britt Assombalonga (Middlesbrough, £14m), Matty Fryatt (released), Daniel Pinillos (Cordoba, free)

Preston North End

In: Josh Harrop (Manchester United, undisclosed), Kevin O'Connor (Cork City, undisclosed), Declan Rudd (Norwich City, undisclosed)
Out: Anders Lindegaard (released), Clive Smith (released)

QPR

In: Josh Scowen (Barnsley, free)
Out: Karl Henry (released), Ben Gladwin (Blackburn Rovers, undisclosed), Michael Doughty (Peterborough United, undisclosed)

Reading

In: Jon Dadi Bodvarsson (Wolves, undisclosed), Pelle Clement (Jong Ajax, undisclosed), Vito Mannone (Sunderland, £2m)
Out: Zak Jules (Shrewsbury, undisclosed), Tariqe Fosu (Charlton Athletic, undisclosed), Ali Al Habsi (Al Hilal, undisclosed), Jack Stacey (Luton Town, undisclosed), Dominic Samuel (Blackburn, undisclosed), Terence Vancooten (Stevenage, free)

Sheffield United

In: Richard Stearman (Fulham, undisclosed), George Baldock (MK Dons, undisclosed)
Out: Marc McNulty (Coventry City, free), Stefan Scougall (St Johnstone, free), Graham Kelly (Port Vale, free)

Sheffield Wednesday

In: George Boyd (Burnley, free)
Out: Claude Dielna (released), Urby Emanuelson (released), Silva Filipe Melo (Chaves, free), Vincent Sasso (released), Jose Semedo (released), Modou Sougou (released)

Sunderland

In: Aiden McGeady (Everton, undisclosed), James Vaughan (Bury, undisclosed)
Out: Jermaine Defoe (Bournemouth, free), Jordan Pickford (Everton, £30m), Vito Mannone (Reading, £2m)

Wolves

In: Roderick Miranda (Rio Ave, undisclosed), Phil Ofose-Ayeh (Eintracht Braunschweig, free), Will Norris (Cambridge United, undisclosed), Ruben Neves (Porto, £15.8m), Barry Douglas (Konyaspor, undisclosed), Ryan Bennett (Norwich City, free), Ruben Vinagre (Monaco, loan)
Out: George Saville (Millwall, undisclosed), Mike Williamson (released), James Henry (released), Jon Dadi Bodvarsson (Reading, undisclosed)

NON LEAGUE



Charlie's in a big Urry!

SUPER sub Charlie Urry stole the second-half show for Newport IW last weekend.

The Islanders overcame Hampshire Premier League Division One outfit Michelmersh & Timsbury on a humid afternoon at St George's Park.

It was 2-0 at the break, thanks to Josh Younie and Mark Taylor, and both sides made numerous changes for the second half.

Newport threw on eight fresh faces and it was Urry who made by far the biggest impact with a 30-minute hat-trick.

Emerson Tattersall's goal crowned a useful pre-season workout for the Sydenhams Premier hosts with ten minutes to go.

● ANDOVER Town's 4-1 pre-season win over Downton last weekend had a Silver lining.

New attacking signing Jason Silver announced his arrival by scoring twice.

Silver, who includes Salisbury and Petersfield Town among his ports of call, was on Winchester City's books last term.

Andover's Ross Gregory and



Jason Silver

Edu were also on target against Downton at Sparsholt College - all the goals coming in the second half.

Busy Portway boss Glenn Burnett has also signed young goalkeeper Kieran McHardy, a Salisbury under-18 last season, and centre-back Joe Chamberlain from Brockenhurst.

Chamberlain swept the board at Brock's presentation night, voted manager's player, players' player and supporters' player-of-the-season for 2016/17.

● WIMBORNE Town have bolstered their squad with the arrival of Lee Francis from Evo-Stik South West rivals Barnstaple.

Described by the Magpies as "a central midfielder with lots of energy", Francis spent two years with Barnstaple, helping them gain promotion as Western League runners-up in 2015/16.

"Lee is 28 years old and lives in Poole with his wife and baby daughter," said a Magpies statement.

"He wants to play more locally and, after impressing us in his first two weeks, we are delighted he has signed with us."

Wimborne ran out 5-0 winners of the Gerry Page Memorial Trophy at Christchurch last Saturday.

Caretaker manager role for ex-Saint Tessem



Jo Tessem.

HE earned nine international caps and played Premier League football for Saints.

Now Jo Tessem, famed for his versatility during his time at St Mary's, has taken on a temporary new role with non-League outfit Totton & Eling.

The former Norway international is sharing caretaker charge of team affairs with Richie Hayter following the departure of James Phillips from the Millers Park helm.

Phillips, a former Romsey Town boss and Team Solent coach, has gone after one season in charge, having led the Millers to 15th place in Sydenhams One.

A T&E statement said: "We would like to

thank outgoing manager James Phillips for all his hard work and wish him all the best for the future.

"We are looking for a new first-team manager/coach and are also looking for people to run our development/reserve squad."

The club are due to kick off the new season away at Fawley AFC on Wednesday, August 2 and T&E secretary Rob Lomax said: "It's never ideal to be looking for a new manager - especially at this time of year."

"But we've put adverts out on social media and we've already had a few people interested. Richie (Hayter) could do the job, but he said 'why don't you

advertise and you might get someone better qualified to do it than all of us?'"

"In the meantime there's no major awkwardness within the club. Richie and Jo are doing the job between them and they've taken it on for the foreseeable future."

Tessem, a long-time member of the T&E coaching staff, is still donning his boots at the age of 45.

The towering ex-Lyn Oslo and Molde man made 27 starts last season.

Anyone interested in either the first-team or development/reserve-team vacancies should email tandemillers2@gmail.com and tandemillers1@gmail.com

Luke: Why I need to repay 'favour'

FORMER AFC Totton forward Luke Roberts is targeting further success in National League South after committing himself to Poole Town.

Roberts impressed for the Dolphins last season and was linked with Forest Green Rovers, who were promoted to League Two.

But the 23-year-old, who hit ten goals in 2016/17, has penned a new two-year deal at the Black Gold Stadium and admits boss Tom Killick was a big factor in him staying.

"I got scouted here by Tom when I was at AFC Totton and they had just been relegated, so he took a chance on me," said Roberts.

"I try to return that favour in my performances and I've integrated myself well within the team."

"The fact I'm settled kept me here. I feel I can continue and maybe progress further just through playing at this level and impressing with my performances."

After finishing last season fifth in the National League South, Roberts believes the squad learned a lot from their first campaign in the division.

"Last season, we didn't really know what to expect and we were an unknown team," he said.

"After the first game of the season when we lost 4-0 to Ebbsfleet, we thought it was going to be a bit of a tough ride, but we grew into it."

"We started to challenge teams and finished in the play-off positions. Having done that, the aim is to do exactly the same this season."

Roberts scored nine goals in 40 league appearances for Poole last term after netting 15 in 42 in the Dolphins' Southern Premier title-



Luke Roberts (photo Andy Orman).

winning campaign.

"I've been playing some of the best football I've played, so the aim is to continue where I left off," he added.

"I want to continue that for longer periods throughout the season. Last season I was a bit hot and cold going through phases,

so I am looking for more consistency."

Roberts showed his class in the recent friendly against Portsmouth, darting through the defence, cutting across the final man and slotting the ball through the goalkeeper's legs.

"That's why we value him so

highly," said Killick. "And that's why it means so much to us for him to commit his future to the club by signing a two-year contract."

"It was an exceptional finish and he's certainly a player who would not have looked out of place wearing a Portsmouth shirt."

NON LEAGUE



Morris joins the growing band of ex-Cherries



Mark Morris. Pic by Graham Hunt

MARK Morris has joined the growing former AFC Bournemouth contingent at New Milton Town after being unveiled as the club's head coach.

The ex-Cherries captain joins club patron John Williams and director of football John Sainty at Fawcett's Field and will work alongside manager Shane Sheridan and assistant Joe Sullivan.

A member of Wimbledon's 'Crazy Gang' as a player, centre-half Morris was player-of-the-season at Dean Court in 1992/93, writes Ned Payne.

Reflecting on the appointment, Sheridan said: "When the opportunity came up and I had discussions with Mark, it was obvious he was the right man for the job.

"Myself and Joe felt we needed an experienced head in the dugout and this is a man who captained a team at Wembley.

"You can't get much more experience than that!"

New Milton chairman Scot MacFarlane also hailed Morris's arrival at the Sydenhams Division One club.

He said: "As soon as Shane mentioned Mark, we knew it was a good move.

"Who better than a player and coach of Mark's ability and experience to learn off in training and on match days?"

"He's a coach who commands respect and his experience will be invaluable.

"It's great that we have excellent ex-Bournemouth players like Mark Morris, John Williams and John

Sainty around the club so our younger coaches can tap into their knowledge and experience when required."

McFarlane added: "There has been a lot of upheaval over the summer in terms of refurbishing the ground, clubhouse and hospitality suites, but it's for the good of the club long term.

"We hope to build on this firm base now and make the club a success on the pitch.

"When we came in, there was one team playing under that banner. Now we have 11 and are growing every season."

Harry Redknapp paid £95,000 to take Morris to Cherries in July 1991. He went on to spend five years at the club and scored eight goals in 194 league games.

Heavyweights on a collision course

By Wendy Gee



TWO of the county's biggest hitters are on a collision course in the 2017/18 Hampshire FA Senior Cup.

Eastleigh have been drawn at home to Vanarama National League rivals Aldershot Town in the second round, both clubs having received byes through to the last 32.

Basingstoke Town, the cup holders, will entertain Gosport Borough in an all-Evo-Stik South Premier affair, while AFC Totton must travel to the winners of the all-Sydenhams One first round tie between Hythe & Dibden and Romsey Town.

Winchester City – beaten finalists in 2015/16 – start off with a home tie against either East Cowes Vics or Fawley AFC.

DRAWS

First round (week commencing August 22): Newport IW v Petersfield Town, AFC Stoneham v Fleet Spurs, Christchurch v Baffins Milton Rovers, Lymington Town v Horndean, Totton & Eling v AFC Portsmouth, Alresford Town v Andover Town, Sholing v Whitchurch Utd, Folland Sports v Ringwood Town, Brockenhurst v Alton, East Cowes Vics v Fawley AFC, Tadley Calvea v Cowes Sports, Team Solent v Bournemouth Poppies, Northerners v Bashley, US Portsmouth v Cove, Hamble Club v Andover New Street, Hythe & Dibden v Romsey Town.



Basingstoke Town celebrate winning last season's Hampshire Senior Cup.

Second round (week commencing September 19): AFC Bournemouth v Newport IW or Petersfield Town, Tadley Calvea or Cowes Sports v Northerners or Bashley, New Milton Town v Totton & Eling or AFC Portsmouth, Lymington Town or Horndean v Team Solent or Bourne-

mouth Poppies, US Portsmouth or Cove v Hamble Club or Andover New Street, Alresford Town or Andover Town v Eversley & California, Blackfield & Langley v Folland Sports or Ringwood Town, Fareham Town v Christchurch or Baffins Milton Rovers, Winchester City v East

Cowes Vics or Fawley AFC, Hythe & Dibden or Romsey Town v AFC Totton, Moneyfields v Sholing or Whitchurch Utd, AFC Stoneham or Fleet Spurs v Havant & Waterlooville, Hartley Wintney v Brockenhurst or Alton, Eastleigh v Aldershot Town, Fleet Town v Farnborough,

PRE-SEASON FRIENDLIES

Saturday, July 22
Andover Town v Basingstoke Town
Bashley v Winchester City
Brockenhurst Development v Hamworthy Rec Res
Havant & Waterlooville v Sutton Utd
Horndean v Gosport Borough
Winchester Castle v AFC Stoneham

Tuesday, July 25
Andover NS v Andover Town
Bashley v Wimborne Town.
Bemerton HH v AFC Totton
Blackfield & Langley v Winchester City
Downton v Salisbury
Fareham Town v Moneyfields
Horndean v Havant & Waterlooville
Laverstock & Ford v Brockenhurst

Wednesday, July 26
Fawley AFC v Sholing
Folland Sports v Gosport Borough

Thursday, July 27
Bemerton HH v AFC Totton

Friday, July 28
Eastleigh v Sheffield Utd
Gosport Borough v Bognor Regis
Sholing v East Cowes Vics (7.30)
Team Solent v Thatcham Town (3G)

Saturday, July 29
Andover Town v Hedge End Rangers (Sparsholt College)
AFC Stoneham v Arundel
AFC Totton v Chichester City
Brockenhurst Development v Shrewton
Hailsham Town v Brockenhurst
Hamble Club v Moneyfields
Hythe & Dibden v Lymington Town
Stockbridge v Totton & Eling
Wimborne Town v Gosport Borough
Winchester City v Alresford Town

Tuesday, August 1
AFC Stoneham v Eastleigh
Moneyfields v Winchester City

Thursday, August 3
Brockenhurst Development v Boldre Royals

Saturday, August 5
Salisbury v Basingstoke Town
Winchester City v Farnborough

*Friendlies subject to change.

NON LEAGUE



'Taz' injury a worry for Winchester

AN injury to wideman Adam 'Taz' Roberts wiped some of the shine off Winchester City's 4-0 friendly win over Hanwell Town last weekend.

Roberts was taken to hospital with a dislocated shoulder on an afternoon when Evo-Stik South West outfit City had too much in their locker for their East Division visitors.

Dan Williamson, Ben 'Chalky' White and Jamie Barron (penalty) put clear first-half daylight between the sides before Gareth Byres finished things off with a composed, lifted finish.

Summing up a mainly pleasing afternoon, City's director of football Dave Malone said: "Three first-half goals proved decisive and the win was rounded



Adam Roberts.

off with a virtuoso goal scored by the evergreen Gareth Byres.

"The only negative was an injury to Taz Roberts which resulted in an ambulance taking our talismanic winger to hospital where his dislocated shoulder was manipulated back into place.

"Let's hope Taz soon gets back to full fitness. He will be missed."

Winchester had been hoping for a similarly positive performance at home to Sholing on Tuesday, but the game was called off at 7.45pm due to thunder, lightning and heavy rain.

Malone said: "The referee had no alternative but to call the game off.

"The safety of both players and spectators is paramount - and the right decision was taken. Really sorry for the inconvenience this caused everyone."

Ex-Blackfield goal ace returns to Dorchester



Sam Lanahan

FORMER Blackfield & Langley and Gosport Borough midfielder Sam Lanahan has returned to Dorchester Town.

He has embarked on a second spell with the Dorset club, having previously left the Magpies in the summer of 2015 to take up a teaching job in Salisbury.

Lanahan was a shining light for Sydenhams Premier outfit Blackfield, scoring 24 goals in 36 games for the Watersiders in 2015/16.

Now, after spending last season with Gosport Borough in the National League South, the 24-year-old has chosen to return to his Dorchester roots despite interest from their Evo-Stik South Pre-

mier neighbours Weymouth.

Admitting his loyalty is with Dorchester, Lanahan said: "I thoroughly enjoyed myself at Dorchester before. In terms of the backroom staff there's a lot of people still at the club that I've really got along with, like Matt Lucas (chairman) and Stuart Heath (first-team coach).

Fantastic

"The fans were fantastic and have always been supportive. My loyalty is with Dorchester and I'm looking forward to it. There's a lot of hungry youngsters involved."

Lanahan added: "The club has had a difficult period and I'd like

to think it's on the up again.

"It's a nice feel at the club and it's about the enjoyment side too.

"The fans have been through hard times and stuck by the players.

"They're very positive, which does help, and are very forthcoming with conversations. They do a lot in the community, so it's a nice all-round club."

Lanahan opened the scoring as Dorchester notched their first pre-season win 3-2 at Melksham Town.

Young trialist Tom Bearwish, who is contracted to National League outfit Eastleigh, bagged a brace.

Brooks setting his sights sky high

Wendy Gee



SALISBURY'S new strike signing Marvin Brooks has set his sights on being top goal scorer this season - not just for the Whites but for the entire league.

The 27-year-old, signed from Poole Town, is not an out-and-out frontman, having played mainly in midfield. But last season he hit 14 goals in 33 appearances for the National League South side.

Now, with the help of Salisbury boss and former pro striker Steve Claridge, he is looking to make his mark in the Evo-Stik South West.

"It is important for me to try and learn from him (Claridge) and hopefully take my career and Salisbury's to the next level," stressed Brooks.

"I have high expectations of myself and, hopefully, we can achieve promotion.

"My goal has to be top scorer - not only at Salisbury but in the league."

Regarding his new forward role, Brooks added: "I played in behind the striker last season, but we had a few injuries and I found it more natural for me (to play up front).

"It was a good fit for me and now I am excited to show that I can do it in this league."

Having reached the play-off final last season, Salisbury will be one of, if not THE favourites, to win the league this time round, but Brooks insisted: "There's no pressure. And, if there is, I've



Marvin Brooks

experienced that at Poole and I think that having pressure makes you play better."

Despite proving his worth at National League South level, Brooks does not view dropping down two divisions as a retrograde step.

"The move is a move forward," he insisted. "People may look at it as two steps back but, in a couple of years, I will be the one with a

huge smile on my face in front of a thousand Salisbury fans.

"I've played at Salisbury before and I remember the crowd and the fans and the set-up and I just thought this is exactly what I want for me.

"The atmosphere was just incredible.

"I've been surprised that Salisbury fans have sent me direct

messages, which has been nice.

"It has actually made the whole experience a little bit easier."

Brooks's departure did not go down well at Poole's Black Gold Stadium and he acknowledged: "I knew I was going to take a bit of flak from the Poole fans. I had been there for six years, but I feel like I have been as loyal as I could be."

NON LEAGUE



Gosport to field a younger squad

GOSPORT Borough will have a younger feel to their squad on their return to the Southern League.

Having had their fingers burned financially, the club are now intent on living within their means and have massively cut their playing budget.

It means the Privett Park stage is now open for youngsters to show what they can do following

the club's relegation from the National League South.

Included in the new batch are wide man Taylor Roach, a Cardiff City Academy graduate, and ex-Pompey scholar Chinedu Vine, who has been with MK Dons.

Vine, who was born in Nigeria and grew up in Ireland, is an exciting centre-forward.

Liam Kimber and Harry Medway are also on board from

Havant & Waterlooville, along with young ex-Salisbury defender Ashton Leigh.

Borough have also set their sights on former Portsmouth Academy defender Ousman Saidy, but it depends if he is successful in a trial with Colchester United.

Gosport kick off the new Evo-Stik South Premier season away to King's Lynn Town on Saturday, August 12.

Blackfield looking to add one more striker

BLACKFIELD & Langley have strengthened all round the park this summer, but they still have one key vacancy.

Manager Glenn Howes is on the lookout for another striker.

All the while Jamie White remains on board at Gang Warily, the Watersiders will never give defences an easy ride.

The ex-Saint averaged almost a goal a game last season, netting 38 times in 44 appearances.

But with Sydenhams Premier promotion firmly in Blackfield's sights, co-assistant boss Chris Farrell said: "In an ideal world Glenn would like another striker."

"We've got other players who can do a job up front, but we could do with someone to supplement Jamie."

"So if there are any budding strikers out there who fancy it, then give us a call."

Former Dorchester Town and Salisbury centre-back Steve

Wood will add extra backbone

Wendy Gee



CHRIS Farrell is tipping James Wood to give Blackfield & Langley some added backbone in the Sydenhams Premier Division promotion race.

With first-team coach James Ford stepping down for personal reasons, Wood has been appointed right-hand man to Watersiders' boss Glenn Howes.

He boasts strong credentials, having successfully managed Bournemouth Poppies and been assistant to Tom Killick at Poole Town and Graham Kemp at Bemerton Heath.

One man who knows Wood well is another member of the Blackfield management team Chris Farrell.

He said: "I've known Woodsy for 20 years and he's going to be a very good addition."

"He and Glenn know each other inside out from when Glenn was captain at Poole and Woodsy was assistant manager."

"James is very positive, organised, motivated and he knows what he wants."

"He played an integral part in taking Poole forward and people forget how successful he was at Poppies."

Although Blackfield have been there or thereabouts in the Wessex title race for the last four seasons, they have lacked the quality that delivered the title under Ashley Vickers in 2012/13.

On that occasion they were not in a position to progress but, with ground improvements now in hand at Gang Warily, Farrell stressed: "We have GOT to get promoted this year."

"Because of the (FA) restructuring (for 2018/19), we must go up or



James Wood

there's a danger we could be left behind.

"Keeping clean sheets has been a big problem for us and that has got to change."

"What Woodsy brings to the table is going through defensive work on the training pitch and he will make us hard to beat."

"People keep telling us that Blackfield play great football, but we don't want to be winning games 9-8 or, worse still, losing 9-8."

"We've played good football for

two years, but won nothing, and the feeling is that we've been a bit too soft."

"One of the big focuses of pre-season is players being strong, athletic and able to get around the pitch."

"We know Portchester, Sholing, Fareham, Horndean and Alresford are going to be strong this season....I could go on and on. Andover will be decent, Brockenhurst will beat people and I expect Lymington Town to be quite strong."

"I don't see the promoted three (Hamble Club, Baffins, Shaftesbury) having any problems either so, as always, there will be no easy games."

"I'm not sure how many teams will be promoted with the restructuring but, if we win the league, we won't have to worry about that."

"We've done it before and there's no reason we can't do it again."

"It would be nice to have FA Cup and FA Vase runs, but our target is promotion. End of."



Jamie White

Walker is the biggest name to have exited Gang Warily this summer, moving to Wessex top-flight rivals Lymington Town.

But the pros certainly outweigh the cons with ex-Poole Town full-back Lewis Talack heading the list of arrivals.

Joe Butcher and Liam Triggs have crossed The Solent from Newport IW, while wideman Sam Griffin, defender Adam Costello and midfielder Connor Doe have followed Howe's new assistant James Wood from Bemerton Heath Harlequins.

Costello is currently injured as is B&L favourite Joey Byrne, who missed most of last season with a broken ankle and damaged tendons and ligaments.

But personal trainer Byrne works for a physiotherapist and the talented defender has a decent chance of being ready for the start of the season.

The Watersiders have also welcomed back midfielder/defender Franklyn Clarke from spells away with Dorchester Town, York City and Salisbury.

"We were a bit soft last year and players like Franklyn, Connor and Liam will add some physicality," said Farrell.

NON LEAGUE



'Should have been stopped earlier'

THE only surprise for Terry Brown about Basingstoke Town's Tuesday friendly being abandoned was that it didn't happen sooner.

With lightning flashing overhead and rain lashing down at The Camrose, the pre-season game against Woking was finally brought to a halt at half-time.

Woking were leading 1-0 through Inih Effiong, but Basingstoke – featuring debutants Jordan Aghatise (defence) and Callum Collins (midfield) – held their own against the National League visitors.

The goal arrived in the 36th minute when Joe Ward whipped in a cross



Terry Brown

and Effiong connected at the near post.

"I was surprised the ref did not stop it earlier as it was getting dangerous," admitted Brown, boss of Evo-Stik South Premier outfit Basingstoke.

"Razor (David Ray) was excellent and won every header and Zaki (Oualah, goalkeeper) made a couple of good saves.

"We played okay, but with no threat up front."

● FORMER non-League duo Nicke Kabamba and Jamal Lowe ran riot as League One new boys Portsmouth racked up an 8-0 friendly win at Newport IW on Tuesday.

The ex-Hampton & Richmond Borough pair accounted for seven of Pompey's goals. Kabamba plundered five and Lowe – a one-time Eastleigh target – two.

Milan Lalkovic was also on target for a young Pompey XI against their Sydenhams Premier hosts.

Bosses unhappy with FA's 'sin bin'

Dan Rose

TWO Dorset Premier League managers have voiced their disapproval over the trial of rugby-style 'sin-bins' for dissent in their division next season.

The Football Association announced that 32 grassroots leagues, including the Dorset Premier League, will trial the new initiative, in which a player will be sent off for ten minutes, without a caution, if adjudged guilty of dissent.

The leagues were picked from 130 competitions at Step 7 in the pyramid and below that registered an interest in taking part in the pilot, and have been selected to provide a mix of male, female, adult, youth, Saturday and Sunday football from across England.

Trials of temporary dismissals were approved at a meeting of law-making body the International Football Association Board (IFAB) in March and each national association was given discretion on whether to use sin-bins for all cautions, or just some.

The FA has chosen to focus on dissent, which accounted for a quarter of all yellow cards last season, as it ties in with the governing body's Respect campaign to protect referees and improve behaviour.

In a statement, the FA's head of judicial services, Mark Ives, said: "This is a fantastic opportunity to reduce dissent across the grassroots of the game.

"I am encouraged by the level of enthusiasm from county FAs, leagues, clubs and referees and in their collective commitment to make a difference to our great game at a local level. I look forward to seeing a positive impact during the course of the season."

But, when asked about the planned initiative in Dorset, bosses of grassroots sides from around the area voiced their frustrations over the trial.

Marco Nott, manager of Balti Sports, who finished second in the DPL last season, said: "It's a crazy idea really.

"If you are going to have a player off the pitch once or twice a game it's going to be making a bit of a mockery of the game itself.

"The refs have enough to do rather than worrying about a player in the sin-bin for ten minutes and thinking whether they can come back on or not.



Dissent will be punished by time in the sin bin in the Dorset Premier League next season. Below - Marco Nott.

"I am hoping there is going to be a bit of common sense about it and the referees aren't going to be trigger happy with the new sin-bin idea.

"The whole idea is to keep 11 men on the pitch at all times and that's just one way of making it not happen.

"I really don't understand the point in it."

Ashley James, boss of Dorchester Sports, said: "If there is a bit of a disagreement between two teams, we could end up playing eight on eight, which is ridiculous.

"We have definitely got to brief them (the players) ahead of it because football is a fiery game – it

just seems like the rules want to take that all out of it.

"Some of these rules are ruining football ... these rules don't need to be changed.

"Respect is there for referees. I don't think they need to bring this in. A booking (for dissent) is fair enough."

Asked about the planned trial, a spokesperson for the Dorset Premier League, which feeds into the Sydenhams Wessex, said: "The league supports the FA initiative to try and reduce the amount of dissent.

"The sin-bin initiative is just another of the ways in which the FA are trying to encourage players to become more responsible



with what they say on the pitch.

"Hopefully, if a club has a particular player, or players, who are sounding off at the referees with dissent, the players in that team might have a go at the particular player who is getting them into trouble and making them play with only ten."

NON LEAGUE



Sub Herbert strikes to give Whites a draw



Claudio Herbert, right.

SALISBURY fought back from behind for a deserved 1-1 draw against League 2 outfit Swindon at the Ray Mac on Monday.

Whites' keeper Nathan Ball saved a third-minute penalty from Harry Smith, but the 6ft 5in forward made amends in the 22nd minute to give the Robins the lead.

Salisbury's equaliser came from sub Claudio Herbert, who curled in a great free-kick to earn the Whites a draw.

The visitors started the game well and were gifted a great opportunity to take the lead in

the third minute when Donal McDermott was fouled in the box, but Ball saved the penalty.

Swindon's opener arrived when James Brophy lofted a cross in from the left for Smith to head home.

With half-time approaching the Whites had four opportunities to level. Marvin Brooks went close with a diving header, then captain Kane O'Keefe had a 25-yarder well saved. From the resulting corner, former Poole Town man Brooks saw his header cannon off the bar. Lewis Benson then saw a 25-yard

free-kick saved.

Ten minutes into the second half the Whites passed up yet another chance when Mark Francis' header was foiled by keeper Will Henry.

But the Evo-Stik South West side got their just rewards on 77 minutes as Herbert struck to the delight of a 605 crowd.

Twenty-four hours later Salisbury sent a development squad/trialists' team to Sydenhams Premier neighbours Andover Town.

Andover won 1-0 thanks to Shane Lock's first-half effort.

James open to offers

JAMES Phillips is eager to find another job in non-League football following a parting of the ways with Totton & Eling.

The 25-year-old was keen to stress that it was not his choice to walk away from Millers Park after a year in charge.

Having led the club to a safe 15th-placed in Sydenhams One, he wanted to build on that this season, but it was not to be.

His goal now is to put that disappointment behind him and get straight back into football, either as a manager or coach.

For one so young, Phillips has already packed a lot of experience into his short career.

Having spent the best part of a season managing

Why Sholing are title favourites ...

Wendy Gee



MANAGER Richard Luffman reckons Alresford Town's FA Cup extra qualifying round tie is about as tough as they come.

The Magpies have been drawn away to Sydenhams Premier Division rivals Sholing – Luffman's tips to the lift 2017/18 Wessex crown.

"We couldn't have got a much harder draw," the Arlebury Park boss admitted.

"Sholing are probably the best team in the division and we've got them away from home.

"For me, Sholing are favourites to win the league this year.

"I think they underachieved last season and should have been a lot closer to (champions) Portland and (runners-up) Moneyfields.

"They're a big, strong side and I put them as favourites."

While the vast majority of extra preliminary round ties will be played on Saturday, August 5, the Sholing v Alresford game is one of three brought forward to Friday, August 4 (7.45pm).

Potton United v Biggleswade Town and Flackwell Heath v Burnham will also be staged on the Friday.

"I've read this is the earliest ever FA Cup date, so there's a chance someone could score the earliest ever FA Cup goal. I just hope it's us," said Luffman.

"Friday night under lights, it should be a good game."

Sholing's pre-season preparations were sabotaged by bad weather on Tuesday.

Dave Diaper's men were meant



Richard Luffman

to be playing at Winchester City, but thunder, lightning and torrential rain left the referee with no option but to call it off.

Alresford dodged the unseasonably wet weather by playing away

at Chichester City on Monday evening.

But having taken the lead through Tom Sands, the Magpies were swept aside in the second half as Ruben French, Kieran

Hartley, Scott Jones and Rob Hutchings put the Sussex hosts in the driving seat.

Chichester – managed by former Moneyfields boss Miles Rutherford – ended up 4-2 winners.



James Phillips.

Romsey Town, he went on to coach under James Taylor at Team Solent for a year-and-a-half before linking up with the Millers last summer.

Phillips said: "I'm excited for a new challenge.

"I'm available and up for whatever comes next.

"My main skill set is coaching – that's why Romsey and Totton & Eling got me in in the first place.

"But I've also really enjoyed being a being a manager, so I'm open to anything on the coaching or management side of things.

"I'm Southampton-based and it would be great to find another Wessex League club.

"I feel I can work at that level and it would be good to stay there."

● Any club with a suitable vacancy for a keen, young manager/coach can contact Phillips on 07557 503358.

NON LEAGUE



Ex-Saint staying on at Poole

SAINTS academy/development squad graduate Corby Moore has re-signed for National League South outfit Poole Town.

Despite being labelled a midfielder, Moore shone at left-back for the Dolphins towards the end last season as they finished fifth in their debut Step 2 campaign.

The 23-year-old's outstanding form was recognised with Poole's young player-of-the-season award.

After leaving St Mary's, Southampton-born Moore spent time in the USA playing for Indy Eleven.

His return to home soil saw him sign for Forest Green Rovers in January 2015 and he originally joined the Dolphins on a



Corby Moore

one-month loan from FGR in September that year.

He went on to play for Bishop's Cleeve, Chelmsford City and Frome Town before returning to Poole and stamping his class on Tom Killick's side.

With Jake Smeeton sidelined by a leg injury, Moore was handed his chance at left-back against Weston-super-Mare in February.

Killick said at the time: "Corby did really well. I was pleased to be able to give him an opportunity.

"He hasn't had enough chances to play, considering the attitude and work ethic he's shown when he has been on the pitch.

"At the moment our pressing need is for a defender, but Corby's performance makes me think it's not essential.

If we have to carry on as we are then I'm happy to do that."

Claridge: We'll be much tighter at the back



Steve Claridge

SALISBURY boss Steve Claridge is confident of not conceding as many goals as last season as his side target promotion from the Evo-Stik South West.

The Whites conceded 52 league goals last term and scored 118, which saw them finish as league runners-up and beaten play-off finalists.

Of the 118 goals netted, the now departed strike partnership of Tommy Wright and Justin Bennett weighed in with 92.

Claridge said: "I don't think we are going to score 100 or so goals next season, but I don't think we

are going to concede the amount of goals we conceded either. We will be playing a different style.

"Also, I don't think we are going to get two players getting 92 goals between them, but what we are going to get is four or five players getting 92 goals, which could be the difference."

The Whites have scored just one goal against Football League opposition during pre-season, but Claridge has been encouraged by his side defensively.

"You look at Jake Wannell. When the ball comes in our box, you know he is going to head it away,

and you look at Marvin Brooks and he will do the same, and then Kane O'Keefe.

"Ultimately those are the areas that teams have hurt us. Teams don't hurt us from free play, but we have struggled when the ball comes into our box."

Although Claridge is happy to have "options" in his squad and "lots of players vying for positions," he is not yet sure of his best 11. "I haven't had an opportunity to look at everyone yet and, once I do that and everyone is fit and we get a system that we can bed in, I will make a decision," he said.

Saints back in the Senior Cup for centenary season



Sholing celebrate with last season's Southampton Senior Cup final at St Mary's.

WHEN the draw is made for the Southampton Senior Cup later this month, there will be a very special name in the hat.

The 2017/18 season is the 100th in the competition's history and the area's biggest club, Southampton FC, are ready to add some extra sparkle to the occasion by entering a team.

"To have the most senior club in Southampton enter is so fitting for such an anniversary," said Southampton Divisional FA secretary Mike Harvey.

"The SDEFA have a fantastic relationship with the club with all but two finals being hosted by Southampton FC."

Saints last won the trophy 33 years ago when they beat North Baddesley 3-2 on April 24, 1984.

They sit second in the table of

Wendy
Gee



winners, having played in nine finals and lifted the cup seven times.

They won it in 1910, 1912 and 1913 as Southampton Reserves and triumphed again in 1946 and 1970.

Two more wins followed as Southampton A in 1983 and 1984, both times beating North Baddesley 5-1 and 3-2.

Current holders Sholing, who beat Team Solent 3-1 at St Mary's in May, have made ten final appearances, winning the trophy nine times.

Eighty-one of the 99 finals to

date were staged at The Dell and there have been 16 more since the move to St Mary's.

The only other grounds to host the game were Lewrys Meadow, Botley, in 1923 and Testwood Park, Totton, in 1937 after the original match at The Dell was abandoned.

Welcoming Saints back into the Senior Cup fold, SDEFA assistant secretary Greg Dickson said: "This is the 100th year the Cup has been competed for and to have the most senior club in the area entering is something to be very proud of.

"Southampton FC are happy to play their games as drawn – either home or away.

"To have a Premier League team entering the competition and the final being played at a Premier League stadium makes the SDEFA

Saturday Senior Cup, in my opinion, one of the most prestigious in the country."

The draw for the first two rounds will be released before the end of this month.

Anyone wishing to get involved in the competition – i.e. with sponsorship – can phone Mike Harvey on 07936 398902 or Greg Dickson on 07496 804555.

The SDEFA are planning to put a publication together to celebrate 100 SDEFA Senior Cup finals. If anyone has access to any cup final memorabilia, such as programmes, photographs, team line-ups, etc, could they please ring Greg Dickson (number above) or email him at secretary@sholing-fc.com

NON LEAGUE



Four Marks forced to turn down promotion



FOUR Marks were reluctantly forced to turn down promotion to the Hampshire Premier League top flight.

The east Hampshire club earned the right to play Premier Division football after winning Division One last term.

But, within days of adding the Aldershot Intermediate Cup to their impressive 2016/17 trophy haul, manager Luke Bewley stepped down, triggering a break-up of their title-winning team.

A club statement confirmed: "It is with great regret that the club have had to decline promotion to the Hants Premier due to the lack of applicants for the post of first-

team manager and players leaving the club after a very successful season last year."

Meanwhile Sway, the promoted Division One runners-up, will kick off the new Premier Division season at Liphook United on Saturday, August 5.

Bush Hill, the runaway Premier Division champions, have a home opener against Liss Athletic.

Opening week's fixtures - New Forest Care Hampshire Premier League: Saturday, August 5

Premier: Bush Hill v Liss Athletic, Clanfield v Overton, Fleetlands v Hedge End Rangers, Hayling Utd v Stockbridge, Infinity v Colden Common, Liphook Utd v Sway, QK Southampton v Paulsgrove, Winchester Castle v Locks Heath.

Tuesday, August 8

Combination Division (6.45pm kick-offs): Fleetlands v Hedge End Rangers, Four Marks v Winchester Castle, Hayling Utd v Paulsgrove.

Wednesday, August 9

Combination Division (6.45pm kick-offs): QK Southampton v Michelmersh & Timsbury (TBC). Saturday, August 12

Premier Division: Clanfield v Bush Hill, Hayling Utd v Colden Common, Infinity v Overton, Liphook v Hedge End Rangers, Paulsgrove v Winchester Castle, QK Southampton v Locks Heath, Stockbridge v Fleetlands, Sway v Liss Athletic.

Division One: AFC Petersfield v Lyndhurst, Netley Central Sports v Four Marks, South Wiston Swifts v Headley Utd, Upham v Michelmersh & Timsbury.

Combination Division: Bush Hill v Liphook, Fleetlands v Headley, Four Marks v Michelmersh & Timsbury, Overton v Clanfield, Winchester Castle v QK Southampton.

Spending must be sustainable

POOLE Town boss Tom Killick says he has no issue with non-league clubs spending big – providing it is sustainable.

Killick was responding after fellow National South managers had voiced concerns over increased finances in the division.

Wealdstone's Gordon Bartlett admitted he had been surprised by the sums changing hands, while Dartford manager Tony Burman described as "scary" the wage demands of some players.

However, Killick has a different view on the subject. He said: "If clubs can afford to do it there's no issue. If clubs know they have the money to sustain it over the season nobody can criticise them."

"If clubs have big

Spitfires sure to have hands full

Wendy Gee



EASTLEIGH are sure to have their hands full in Tuesday's friendly against an AFC Bournemouth XI - whatever Cherries side turns up.

With Eddie Howe's Premier League thoroughbreds focused on games at Portsmouth today (Saturday) and QPR next weekend, Bournemouth are likely to dispatch a youthful squad to the Silverlake (July 25, 7pm).

But as Hamworthy Recreation would be the first to testify, Cherries' young guns pack quite a punch.

Spearheaded by striker Mikael Ndjoli, Bournemouth's under-21s steamrollered the Dorset Premier League outfit 15-0 on Tuesday.

Ndjoli, who joined the Cherries from Millwall 12 months ago, was rewarded with a new contract after impressing during his first season.

He plundered a hat-trick against Hamworthy Rec, backed by two from Joe Quigley, who is believed to be a loan target of Hibernian.

Mihai Dobre also struck twice and there were further goals from Frankie Vincent, ex-Christchurch winger Harry Cornick, former Eastleigh loanee Sam Matthews, with a majestic free-kick, and a Keelan O'Connell penalty.

An unnamed trialist scored three and there was one own goal.

Tuesday's game offers Eastleigh their first opportunity to play on their newly-laid pitch after



Sam Matthews on the ball for Eastleigh against Gateshead last season.

scheduled friendlies against AFC Wimbledon and Portsmouth were cancelled.

Richard Hill's National League charges had been due to entertain Newport County today (Saturday), but that too was called off and they were instead heading for Alton last night.

With Eastleigh's opening league fixture at Bromley fast approaching on August 5, the Cherries' visit offers a good test before pre-season peaks at home to Chris Wilder's League One champions Sheffield United next Friday (July

28, 7.45pm).

A Spitfires statement said: "With what has been a fairly disruptive pre-season schedule, the club would like to thank Bournemouth for stepping in at late notice."

"Richard and his team feel an additional game against League opposition will be beneficial to all."

Admission for the Bournemouth match is £5 adults, £3 concessions and free for under-7s.

Eastleigh confirmed their seventh summer signing this week,

welcoming in versatile central defender/right-back Andrew Boyce on a free from Grimsby Town.

Boyce, who includes Lincoln and Scunthorpe among his former clubs, follows Paul McCallum, Danny Hollands, Ross Flitney, Chris Zebroski, Mark Yeates and Sam Wood into the Silverlake arrivals' lounge.

The 6ft 4in, 27-year-old tweeted: "Delighted to join @EastleighFC! Ambitious club on the way up and can't wait to be a part of it! Thanks for welcome messages, see you all soon."



Tom Killick

resources from one way or another you can only admire it, whether that's from crowd revenue or individual investment."

Since Weymouth went into administration in 2009, only two National League clubs have followed – Rushden and Diamonds and Darlington.

After dissolving, both returned under new names – AFC Rushden and Diamonds and Darlington 1883, respectively.

The National League, meanwhile, has now gone more than five years without a club entering administration.

"I've got no qualms about spending as long as it's sustainable and you don't have the boom or bust situation you see sometimes," added Killick.

"We just have to concentrate on living within our means and that's what we do."

Mahoney: Duff was an inspiration

CHERRIES new boy Connor Mahoney has admitted he drew inspiration for his adventurous style from being reared on former Blackburn star Damien Duff's scintillating wing play.

Mahoney last month joined Cherries on a four-year deal from Rovers and promptly insisted he had his own way of doing things on the pitch.

Nevertheless, the 20-year-old confessed he watched on rapt from the Ewood Park stands as former Ireland international Duff laid opposing defences to waste.

Duff was one of the leading protagonists of a Blackburn team that was promoted from the Championship in 2001 and lifted the League Cup a year later. He subsequently won the Premier League twice with Chelsea.

Mahoney said: "I really enjoyed watching Damien Duff – and some people say I play like him. He was an extremely good player.

"But I am my own person and have my own way of playing. I do my own stuff and, hopefully, that will take me as far as I can go.

"There are a lot of big characters in the dressing room here and they are all Premier League players, so you have to be confident in your own



Connor Mahoney

ability."

Mahoney was signed for Blackburn by then boss Gary Bowyer in December 2013. He was swiftly handed a debut from the bench in an FA Cup tie at Manchester City before his season was ended by a shin problem.

The attacker left Rovers – who he joined from Accrington Stanley – having made six starts under three different managers – Paul Lambert, Owen Coyle and Tony Mowbray.

And while he insisted the players at the Lancashire club kept their noses out of any off-field upheaval, he was glad to be arriving in a more stable environment.

Furthermore, Mahoney said his new team-mates had made the task of bedding in at Cherries an extremely easy one.

"The lads have all been great and told me I made the right decision," he said.

"It was hard chopping and changing managers at Blackburn, but that was out of the players' control and we had to let it play itself out. I am just happy to be here now.

"The manager has taken Bournemouth from League Two to the Premier League, and then to finish ninth last year was an incredible achievement. Hopefully, this season we can go a bit better and I can get a few minutes."

SAINTS

Friendly tests

Oliver
Laurie

SAINTS are preparing for their sixth season back in the Premier League.

Mauricio Pellegrino has overseen one pre season trip to Austria, while Saints are in France next week.

Here, the Sports Pink looks back at the club's pre season campaigns in each of the last five years - all of which have included foreign trips.

2012/13

Saints 0 Anderlecht 1

Saints began preparation for a Premier League return with a triangular tournament featuring themselves, Belgian club Anderlecht and Arsenal - with the Markus Liebherr Cup up for grabs. All games lasted just 45 minutes each and Tom De Sutter's strike sentenced Saints to defeat in the first game.

Saints 1 Arsenal 1

New club record signing Jay Rodriguez - a £7m buy from Burnley - opened the scoring on 31 minutes, but Gervinho levelled four minutes later. Saints won 5-4 on penalties with Danny Fox, Rodriguez, Danny Seaborne, Richard Chaplow and Dean Hammond on target. The first nine spot kicks were all scored before Kyle Ebecilio missed his effort.

Etoile Carogue 1 Saints 4

Billy Sharp struck a hat-trick as Saints came from behind to beat their lower league Swiss hosts. Jos Hooiveld's own goal put Etoile ahead with left back Luke Shaw levelling 10 minutes into the second half. Sharp then pounced three times in the last 16 minutes.

Evian Thonon Gaillard 0 Saints 1

Jason Puncheon scored the only goal as Saints won for a second time on a short pre-season tour of Switzerland.

Saints 0 Ajax 1

Aras Ozbiliz scored in the 65th minute in front of 5,713 at St Mary's.

Saints 2 Wolves 0

Just 3,978 turned up for this strange friendly, which pitted Saints against lower division opponents at St Mary's. Billy Sharp and Jason Puncheon netted.

Bristol City 1 Saints 1

Billy Sharp's fifth pre season goal came in the 92nd minute and provided Saints' leveller after Jon Stead had fired the Robins into a



Jay Rodriguez heads home for Saints against Arsenal in the 2012 Markus Liebherr Cup tournament.



Adam Lallana in action during Saints' 4-0 loss to Udinese in 2012. half-time lead.

Llagostera 1 Saints 2

Jay Rodriguez got Mauricio Pochettino's first pre season at Saints off to a winning start with both goals against the Spanish minnows.

Palamos 0 Saints 8

Guly Do Prado struck a nine-minute treble as Saints romped to victory against lower league

opponents.

It was 3-0 at half-time through Adam Lallana, Jason Puncheon and Morgan Schneiderlin before Jay Rodriguez struck from the penalty spot on the hour mark.

Once Do Prado had taken centre stage, Luke Shaw dealt the final blow in the 85th minute.

Continued on page 16

2013/14

Saints 0 Udinese 4

Another low St Mary's crowd - 3,744 - saw Saints thumped by Serie A side Udinese. Goals came from striker Antonio Di Natale (2), Williams Domingos Fernandes and Luis Muriel.

SAINTS



in last five years



Victor Wanyama in action during Saints' 3-1 friendly win over Besiktas in Austria in 2013.



Rickie Lambert in action during Saints' friendly loss to Schalke in Austria in 2013.

Ex-Saint's Euro stunner

Former Saint Graham Potter hailed one of his "greatest achievements" after knocking Turkish giants Galatasaray out of the Europa League as a manager.

Potter, now 42, was a journeyman midfielder during his playing career in the English leagues, with York City the club he represented the most.

He made close to 145 appearances for the Minstermen after playing eight games for Saints in the 1996/97 season.

Since 2011 has been managing Swedish side Ostersund and, on Thursday night, they got the better of Galatasaray.

They won the home leg of their second qualifying round tie 2-0 and drew 1-1 in Istanbul to progress to a third-round meeting with Luxembourg outfit Fola Esch.

Very happy

"I am currently having difficulty expressing my feelings," Potter said after the match.

"I am very happy. I can say this is one of the greatest achievements in my professional career. The fans were very strong, the atmosphere (in Turkey) was very good and we were able to use the opportunity."

Potter has taken Ostersund from the fourth tier of the Swedish league to the top-ranked Allsvenskan, winning the Swedish Cup in April to qualify for the Europa League.

Among his squad is Jamie Hopcutt, a 25-year-old midfielder from York who was released by his hometown club and played for the likes of Whitby, Ossett and Tadcaster before going to Sweden.

£1000 CASH GIVEAWAY

To celebrate the summer, we are giving 6 readers each week the chance to win a share of £1000 simply by answering the question and completing the entry form below. 1st prize £500 and 5 runners up winning £100 each!

Send your completed entry form to Cash Giveaway Week 4, Newsquest, Fleet House, Hampshire Road, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 9XD, by the closing date of 5pm on 29th July 2017.

Cash Giveaway Entry Form

Question: How many days are in the month of July?

Answer

Name

Address

Postcode

E-mail

Daytime Tel No

Year of Birth

☐ From time to time, Newsquest would like to contact you about news, features, great offers and special events. If you don't want to receive these, please tick this box

Terms and Conditions: This competition closes at 5pm on 29th July 2017, when the winner/s will be selected at random from the correct entries received. The judge's decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into. Employees of Newsquest and members of their family are not eligible to enter this competition. There is no equivalent for the cash prize offered which will be paid in the form of a cheque within 4 weeks of the closing date. Winners must be prepared to have their name published and picture taken to be eligible for the prize. Usual Newsquest terms and conditions apply please see dorsetecho.co.uk/competitionterms. This competition will be published in the Dorset Echo, Daily Echo and Southern Daily Echo with winners selected from all correct entries received.

Close calls

It is 25 years since an Englishman last won The Open.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at the players who have come closest since a third and final Claret Jug was lifted by Sir Nick Faldo in 1992, who came within two shots of successfully defending his title the following year.

STEVEN BOTTOMLEY

ST ANDREWS, 1995

The unheralded Yorkshireman began the final day seven shots behind leader Michael Campbell but a remarkable 69 - the only sub-70 round of the day - in winds gusting up to 40mph lifted him to the top of the leaderboard. He would hold that position for over an hour before eventual champion John Daly and Costantino Rocca edged a shot ahead to contest a play-off.

GARY EVANS

MUIRFIELD, 2002

Eight birdies in 10 holes, including a putt of 80 feet at the 10th, saw Evans surge into the lead with seven holes remaining. Disaster was to strike at the 17th when he lost his ball in heavy rough with his approach to the par five. Having taken a penalty shot he made an improbable par with a 40ft putt but bogeyed the last for a round of 65 and although still in the lead at that



Nick Faldo

point he was overtaken by a quartet of players.

IAN POULTER

BIRKDALE, 2008

Beginning the day six shots back in a tie for ninth place the Ryder Cup star was one of the few players to be under par as strong winds battered the Southport links. A birdie at the 16th gave him a share of the lead with Pdraig Harrington. Poulter could not birdie the par-five 17th but Harrington picked up a shot at the 13th to edge ahead. The Englishman carded a 69 to set the clubhouse lead at seven over only for Harrington to hit a five-wood approach to within five feet for eagle at the 17th to eventually win by four shots.

LEE WESTWOOD

TURNBERRY, 2009

Westwood started the day two behind 59-year-old Tom Watson but led after a birdie on the sixth and eagle on the seventh. Three bogeys followed but a birdie on the 17th got him back to two under, which would have been good enough for a play-off. A bogey on the last was to cost him dearly.

SAINTS



Warming up for

from page 15

Saints 0 Schalke 2

The two sides met at Stadion Villach Lind in Austria, with Dutch striker Klaas Jan Huntelaar (58) and current Liverpool centre half Joel Matip (69) on target for the Bundesliga club.

Saints 3 Besiktas 1

Another game at Villach Lind saw Saints come from behind to score three times in the last 15 minutes.

After Demirci had put the Turkish club ahead, Rickie Lambert (75), Emmanuel Mayuka - remember him! (78) and Lloyd Isgrove (90) gave Saints victory.

Celta Vigo 0 Saints 0

Saints lost 4-1 on penalties after Guly Do Prado and James Ward-Prowse both missed from 12 yards. Steven Davis was the only Saint to convert.

Saints 4 Real Sociedad 3

An 8,434 crowd at St Mary's were rewarded with a goal-fest.

Saints led three times in the first half, through Adam Lallana, Morgan Schneiderlin and Jos Hooveld. Haris Seferovic produced a third leveller in the second half, but Jason Puncheon grabbed an 83rd minute winner.

2014/15

EHC Hoensbroek 0 Saints 4

New manager Ronald Koeman and his team travelled to Hoensbroek for the first pre-season fixture.

Youngster Sam McQueen - who would never play a competitive game under the Dutchman - scored the first goal of the Koeman era.

Calum Chambers - soon to be sold to Arsenal - made it 2-0 before Billy Sharp's 62nd minute penalty and Steven Davis completed a comfortable baptism for the new boss.

Hasselt 0 Saints 6

New £8m signing Graziano Pelle scored twice inside the first 32 minutes as Saints romped to victory against the Belgian minnows. Sam McQueen again netted before Weerts put through his own goal. Strikers Emmanuel Mayuka (penalty) and Sam Gallagher - two others who would never appear under Koeman - both scored late on.

Swindon Town 0 Saints 1

Jos Hooiveld scored the only goal at the County Ground as Saints returned to England with victory.

Bournemouth 0 Saints 1

Lloyd Isgrove netted the only goal in the 20th minute. Little



Graziano Pelle scores his first Saints goal against Hasselt in 2014. Main picture - Adam Lallana scores against Real Sociedad in 2013.

did Saints know it, but the next time they would visit Dean Court would be for a Premier League fixture.

Brighton 1 Saints 3

Dusan Tadic, another of Koeman's new signings, opened the scoring in the 19th minute before Steven Davis struck just before half-time.

James Ward-Prowse added a third just after the hour mark before Kazenga Lua Lua replied.

Saints 0 Bayer Leverkusen 1

A healthy 17,690 crowd at St Mary's saw Graziano Pelle score the only goal. Unfortunately for Saints, it was in his own net as the German Bundesliga club inflicted a first pre season loss on

Saints.

2015/16

RB Leipzig 5 Saints 4

A goal-fest at the Stadium Sportklub in Bischofshofen, Austria.

Saints had led 2-1 after 53 minutes, through new signing Juanmi and Jay Rodriguez - his first goal since his horror injury

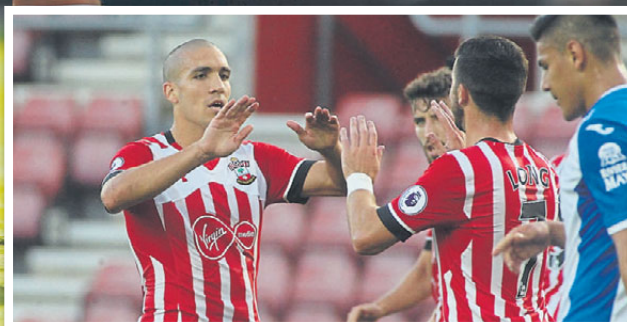
SAINTS



a new season ...



Oriol Romeu, right, celebrates his goal against Espanyol in 2016. Above right - Charlie Austin in action during Saints' 1-0 win against Athletic Bilbao last year.



at Manchester City 16 months earlier - but then conceded four quick goals. Cedric Soares and Rodriguez gave the Germans a slight scare late on.

Valencia 1 Saints 0

Argentine Pablo Piatti scored the only goal in the 23rd minute of a friendly played in Salzburg, Austria.

Red Bull Salzburg 2 Saints 0

A day to forget for Sadio Mane, who ended a loser on his return to the club Saints signed him from 12 months earlier. Havard Nielsen and Dimitri Oberlin scored in the first 23 minutes.

Groningen 0 Saints 3

Jose Fonte (24), Sadio Mane (52)

and Graziano Pelle (72) were on target as Saints won against the Dutch League top flight hosts.

Quick '20 0 Saints 10

Steven Davis started the rout against the Dutch minnows in the first minute, and added another in the 39th.

Graziano Pelle bagged a first half treble - netting in the 12th,

28th and 42nd minutes - while Jay Rodriguez scored in the 15th and 27th minutes as Saints led 7-0 at the interval.

Easing up in the second half, Jordan Turnbull (51) and Juanmi (61) stretched Saints' lead before Rodriguez completed his hat-trick three minutes from time.

Feyenoord 0 Saints 3

Ronald Koeman and Graziano Pelle enjoyed a winning return to their former Feyenoord stomping ground.

Pelle opened the scoring just before half-time, Maya Yoshida doubled the lead in the 61st minute and Juanmi finished off the scoring seven minutes from time.

Saints 1 Espanyol 1

Jay Rodriguez struck Saints' 85th minute leveller in front of a crowd of 14,730 at St Mary's. Salva Sevilla had opened the scoring on 11 minutes. This game took place after Saints had begun their competitive fixtures with a Europa League tie against Vitesse Arnhem.

2016/17

DC United Under-23s 0 Saints 2

Saints played just one game on a short American tour, scoring through James Ward-Prowse and a late Jay Rodriguez penalty.

PEC Zwolle 0 Saints 4

New signing Nathan Redmond scored twice as Claude Puel's men caned their Eredivisie hosts. Charlie Austin had opened the scoring on 14 minutes and Pierre-Hobjerg, another new arrival, struck an 88th minute penalty.

FC Twente 1 Saints 2

Virgil Van Dijk and Sam Gallagher put Saints in control, with Peet Bijen replying 16 minutes from time.

Groningen 0 Saints 1

Charlie Austin topped off a successful Netherlands tour for the Saints with a headed winner in the second half.

Saints 1 Espanyol 1

Oriol Romeu put Saints ahead in front of a 8,984 crowd at St Mary's, with the La Liga side levelling through a Felipe Caicedo penalty in the 69th minute.

Saints 1 Athletic Bilbao 0

Shane Long rounded off an unbeaten pre-season for Claude Puel's Saints in front of a St Mary's crowd of 17,758. The Republic of Ireland striker scored the only goal two minutes before half-time.

Those who went back ...

Wayne Rooney has returned to Everton after 13 years at Manchester United.

Here the Sports Pink looks at a number of big names who previously made a return to a former club.

Jermain Defoe (Bournemouth) -

The 34-year-old striker signed for the Cherries earlier this summer, marking a return to the club where he spent the 2000-01 season on loan from West Ham. The south coast club gave Defoe his first significant opportunity in senior football and during his time at Dean Court he netted 19 goals in 31 appearances in all competitions. Defoe also had two permanent stints at Tottenham, when he rejoined Spurs from Portsmouth in January 2009, a year after leaving the north London club.

Stewart Downing (Middlesbrough) -

Downing re-signed for his boyhood club Boro in the summer of 2015, having started his career at the Riverside Stadium in 2003. The fleet-footed left winger spent six years with Middlesbrough between 2003 and 2009 before being snapped up by Aston Villa. The 32-year-old former England star also went on to represent Liverpool and West Ham in the Premier League, and next term he will find himself playing in the Championship for only the second time in his career.

Paul Pogba (Manchester United) -

Pogba returned to Old Trafford last



Wayne Rooney

summer in an £89million switch from Juventus. The French midfielder joined United's academy in 2009 from Le Havre and spent three years there, until he left for the Italian giants in the summer of 2012. However, Jose Mourinho saw it fit to bring the 24-year-old 'home' last summer, in one of the most expensive transfers of all time.

Nemanja Matic (Chelsea) -

Chelsea signed Matic from Slovakian outfit FC Kosice in 2009. But after failing to make an impact in his first year at the club, and a season-long loan to Dutch side Vitesse Arnhem in his second year, he was offloaded to Benfica for just £4.25million. Mourinho then opted to bring the Serbian back to Stamford Bridge in January 2014 for around five times the price the club sold him for two-and-a-half years earlier, but he was a key performer in the 2015 and 2017 Premier League title successes.

Carlos Tevez (Boca Juniors) -

Tevez began his professional career in his native Argentina with Boca Juniors, and he spent five years in South America. West Ham brought the prolific goalscorer to England in 2006, and he went on to controversially represent both Manchester clubs. The 33-year-old left City for Juventus in 2013, before rejoining Boca in 2015, 10 years after he originally left the club. Tevez now plays in China with Shanghai Shenhua, but Boca club president Daniel Angelici stated in April that he is keen on bringing the striker back to his country of birth again.

Remarkable Totti totals

Francesco Totti has confirmed his retirement from playing and will take up a role as a club director with Roma.

Here, we take a look at the remarkable numbers from the 40-year-old's long career at the Stadio Olimpico.

786 - Roma's all-time appearances record holder. He is 225 games ahead of team-mate Daniele De Rossi in the charts and 619 of his outings have come in Serie A, where he is level with Gianluigi Buffon and 28 behind Paolo Maldini in the appearances table.

307 - Roma's all-time leading goalscorer. Totti is 169 ahead of Roberto Pruzzo, on 138 goals. Totti won the Golden Boot once, in the 2006-07 season, when he hit 26 goals.

250 - Most goals for a single club in Serie A. Totti is second in the all-time leading goalscorers' table, 24 behind Silvio Piola. That is also four more than the current Roma squad's combined tally.

58 - Caps he won for Italy. Totti netted nine times for his country in eight years before deciding to retire after the World Cup win in 2006.

22 - Age at which he took the



Francesco Totti

armband for Roma, making him the youngest club captain in Serie A history.

16 - Age at which he made his debut for Roma. He was brought on as a substitute in the 2-0 victory at Brescia on March 28, 1993.

11 - Most goals scored in the Rome derby. His first came in November 1998, when he equalised with nine minutes left in a 3-3 draw with Lazio, and his last two came in the 2-2 draw in the 2014-15 season where he celebrated his second by taking a selfie on the pitch.

9 - Times he has finished as a runner-up in the Serie A title race - in 2001-02, 2003-04, 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2009-10, 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2016-17. They finished runners-up Inter Milan and Juventus four times each, while AC Milan also beat Totti to the Scudetto.

3 - Trophies has won with Italy. He won the European Under-21 Championship in 1996, the Mediterranean Games (under-23) in 1997 and the World Cup in 2006.

1 - Serie A titles Totti won with Roma. His sole Scudetto came in 2000-01 where he scored 13 goals as Roma won by two points.

SAINTS

Saints who had

Simon Carter



WAYNE Rooney has returned to Everton after 13 years at Old Trafford.

There is a saying in football that you should never go back, but Saints have had a handful of players in modern times who have done just that.

Some are well known - Mick Channon, Alan Ball, Jack Cork. Others - like Jon Gittens and Craig Maskell - less so.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at those who had two spells at either The Dell or St Mary's.

Graham Baker

The Southampton-born midfielder made a dream start to his Saints career when he scored in the opening minute of a Division 2 encounter against Blackpool in November 1977. Went to to establish himself in the top flight - winning England U21 recognition in 1980 - before he joined Manchester City in the summer of 1983 for £225,000. He returned to The Dell on a free transfer three years later. That move never really worked out and Bake - after a total of 199 league and cup outings for Saints - left a second time in 1990 to join Fulham.

Alan Ball

Made his Saints debut two days after Christmas Day 1976, having been signed from Arsenal. Then aged 31, he used his experience to help Saints back into the top flight in his first full season. Later skippered the club in the 1979 League Cup final and left The Dell the following summer to manage Vancouver in the North American Soccer League. After returning to England to manage Blackpool, he was sacked in February 1981. Lawrie McMenemy then persuaded Ball to return to Saints, and he missed only one game in the 1981/82 season. Made the last of his 234 Saints appearances against one of his former clubs, Everton, in October 1982 at the end of 37.

Mick Channon

Having made his Saints debut aged 17 in April 1966, Channon became a Dell legend. He won 45 of his 46 full England caps and helped Saints win the FA Cup prior to a £200,000 move to Manchester City. Channon had remained loyal to Saints for three seasons after they had been relegated from the top flight in 1974 (when he was Division 1's top scorer with 21 goals - one more than



George Lawrence, above, in FA Cup action against Brighton. Main pic - Mick Channon

Leicester's Frank Worthington). Channon spent two seasons at Maine Road before returning to The Dell in September 1979. There he spent another three years before Lawrie McMenemy released him in the summer of 1982. Channon went on to play for Bristol Rovers, Norwich - with whom he won the League Cup in 1985 - and even Portsmouth. In all, he played 607 games for Saints and scored a club record 228 goals.

Richard Chaplow



Graham Baker, second left, celebrates a goal back in 1980.

The West Bromwich Albion midfielder first arrived at St Mary's on loan in February 2006 when Saints were in the Championship. In 2010/11, he returned on loan from Preston and a few months later became Nigel Adkins' first permanent Saints signing. Chaplow featured regularly as Saints won back to back promotions, but fell out of favour once the club had returned to the Premier League and he left to join Millwall in the summer of 2013.

SAINTS



to come back



Jack Cork

Having first appeared on loan for Saints in the first half of 2008/09, making 23 Championship appearances, Cork returned to St Mary's for £750,000 from Chelsea in the summer of 2011. He became the only man to appear in all 46 of the club's 2011/12 Championship promotion winning matches and went on to establish himself in the Premier League. Fell out of favour under Ronald Koeman and joined Swansea for £3m towards

the end of the January 2015 transfer window. Is now rumoured to be making a £10m switch to Burnley, another club where he was once on loan. In all, made 115 appearances for Saints.

Kevin Davies

Then a teenager, Davies cost Graeme Souness £750,000 when he arrived from third tier Chesterfield in the summer of 1997. He would prove the manager's final signing. Davies quickly proved his worth to Dave Jones,

Craig Maskell, above right, grapples with Wednesday's John Sheridan. Inset below - Jon Gittens.

and by January 1998 had scored his ninth goal for the club. But Davies suffered an ankle injury that month and didn't start another game that season. Remarkably, Roy Hodgson - then at Blackburn - splashed out £7.5m in the summer of 1998 to take Davies to Ewood Park.

The move didn't work out at all, with Davies making just nine starts and scoring one goal in 1998/99 before he returned to The Dell in a part exchange deal which saw Egil Ostenstad move to Lancashire. Coming back to Hampshire didn't really work out either, and Davies' days were numbered after Gordon Strachan took over - the player being given a free transfer at the end of the 2002/03 season. Taken to Bolton by Sam Allardyce, Davies' career finally flourished - becoming a Premier League regular and, in 2010 aged 33, he made his senior England international debut.

Jon Gittens

Chris Nicholl signed the centre half from Midlands non league club Paget Rangers in October 1985, and he impressed towards the end of that season after Mark Wright suffered a broken leg in the FA Cup semi final. Out of contract in the summer of 1987, Gittens opted to join Swindon, newly promoted to what is now the Championship. A tribunal set the fee at £40,000. Nicholl paid ten times that amount to bring Gittens back to The Dell in March 1991. Nicholl was sacked in the summer and Gittens moved to Middlesbrough midway through the following season.



Ivan Golac

The right back quickly established himself as a fans' favourite when he signed from Partizan Belgrade in the summer of 1978. Having celebrated his 28th birthday, he was now at the age where Communist Yugoslavia would allow their players to play abroad for the first time. Following his departure in 1982, he returned for the final few months of the 1983/84 season as Saints finished second in the top flight.

George Lawrence



The winger - affectionately nicknamed 'Chicken George' - came through the ranks at The Dell before joining Oxford United in a deal which brought Keith Cassells and Mark Wright to Hampshire in 1982. Lawrence later brought Lawrence back to The Dell in January 1985, and he left for a second time after scoring on his final Saints appearance against Chelsea towards the end of 1986/87.

Craig Maskell

Surely born to be a Saints player - his middle name is 'Del' - the striker came through the ranks and scored on his second appearance at Tottenham in 1986. Sold to Huddersfield for £50,000 in 1990. Moving onto Reading and Swindon, he scored for the Wiltshire club in their 1993 play-off final win over Leicester that took the Robins into the top flight. Alan Ball brought him back to The Dell in February 1994 and he scored on his second home debut in a 4-2 win against Liverpool. Left to join Brighton two years later.

Ageas Bowl centurions

Aaron Finch returns to the scene of his record-breaking T20 performance on Sunday.

The Australian batsman is expected to open for Surrey in their NatWest Blast tie against Hampshire at The Ageas Bowl.

Four years ago, Finch blasted the highest T20 innings ever at the venue while playing in an international against England.

Here, the Sports Pink looks back at the Ageas Bowl centuries in the shortest form of the game.

156

AJ Finch, Australia v England, 2013 - Finch struck a sensational 14 sixes and 11 fours in an incredible 63-ball 156 as Australia rattled up 248-6.

124*

MJ Lumb, Hampshire v Essex, 2009 - Lumb struck four sixes and 14 fours in scoring an undefeated 124 off 69 balls.



Aaron Finch

116*

LJ Wright, Sussex v Hampshire, 2014 - the former England batsman struck his runs off 66 balls and out of a team total of 171-8. Only one other Sussex batsman scored more than nine, as Wright hit four sixes and 13 fours in a losing cause.

101*

JHK Adams, Hampshire v Surrey, 2010 - The opening batsman hit seven fours and four sixes in a 64-ball 101 not out.

100*

JHK Adams, Hampshire v Glamorgan, 2010 - A few weeks later, Adams scored his second T20 century, this time swatting 16 boundaries in a 61-ball knock.

100*

MA Carberry, Hampshire v Lancashire, 2013 - Carberry reached his century off the last ball of the innings as his side posted 202 in their quarter final with Lancashire. His 66-ball knock included 11 fours and three sixes. Hampshire ended up winning a thriller by just one run.

Jodie joins exclusive England club

Jodie Taylor followed in the footsteps of England greats Geoff Hurst and Gary Lineker with a hat-trick on Wednesday.

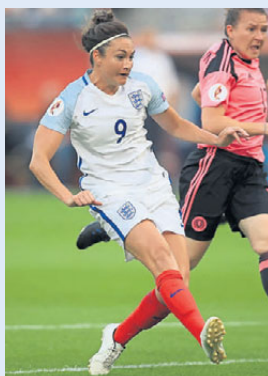
The high point of the 31-year-old's career to date arrived on Wednesday where she guided England towards a 6-0 victory over Scotland in their Women's European Championship opener.

Hurst's hat-trick in the 1966 World Cup final and Lineker's treble against Poland at the 1986 World Cup were the only previous occasions when an England striker had fired three goals in a match at senior tournament level.

Here is a look at the Birkenhead-born striker who could fire the Lionesses to trophy glory in Holland.

1. Hope running out

Taylor was playing for Gothenburg at the time of the 2013 European Championship, hosted by Sweden, and she despaired at being overlooked by England manager Hope Powell. She was already a proven goalscorer at club level during a nomadic career that had also included spells in England, Canada, Australia and the US. But Powell was not interested. "I emailed her and tried to get feedback from her but it was like



Jodie Taylor

drawing blood from a stone," Taylor said. England flopped, Powell was sacked, and Taylor was immediately summoned by new boss Mark Sampson.

2. Hat-trick habit - Taylor opened her scoring account for England with a hat-trick against Australia at the Cyprus Cup in March 2015. The treble against Scotland took her to 12 goals so far for her country.

3. In a Rush - Taylor first started playing football at around the age of eight, and grew up as a big fan of Liverpool great Ian Rush. Her first pet, a rabbit, was named Rushie.

4. Thorny issue - Taylor went to college in Oregon, studying sport science on a four-year scholarship beginning in 2004. She was thrilled to return to the Pacific Northwest with the Portland Thorns in 2015, and spoke about wanting it to be a long-term stay. But she was soon on the move again, joining Arsenal Ladies in March 2016.

5. Gunners blow - Almost immediately after moving to Arsenal, Taylor suffered an anterior cruciate knee ligament injury that kept her out for close to a full Women's Super League season. Once fit though, she was quickly recalled by England.

PREMIER LEAGUE

Great summer



England have enjoyed a summer of unprecedented success in age group football, renewing expectations for the coming generations and putting the ball firmly in the court of Gareth Southgate's seniors ahead of next year's World Cup.

Here, the Sports Pink assesses the efforts of the various Young Lions on duty across the globe.

May 19

England finish runners-up at the Under-17 European Championship

England were looking to lay their hands on this trophy for the third time in seven years following successes in 2010 and 2014.

The mission in Croatia started serenely, as Steve Cooper's side made it three from three with victories over Norway, Holland and Ukraine. Manchester City's Jadon Sancho then scored as the Republic of Ireland and Turkey were dealt with in the quarter and semi-finals respectively.

That set up a final with Spain, where England took the lead twice through Callum Hudson-Odoi and Phil Foden only to be taken to penalties.

As so often in senior football, that is where the dream ended for England as they missed two of their first three attempts to end second best.

June 10

England win the Toulon Tournament

With strong squads selected for the full gamut of youth championships, England were left with what amounted to a squad of newcomers and peripherals for their defence of the title they won in 2016 under the guidance of Southgate (when Saints trio James Ward-Prowse, Nathan Redmond and Jack Stephens all played). Current boss Neil Dewsnip moulded together a team almost from scratch during training at St George's Park and Loughborough University and came up with the goods.

A 7-1 defeat of Cuba in their second group game made people take notice, while neighbours Scotland were easily bested, 3-0, in the last four.

A final against the Ivory Coast was the final hurdle and, after David Brooks' opener was cancelled out, it fell to penalties. Banishing England's historic frailty at spot-kicks, all five takers converted from 12 yards to take the trophy.

Saints midfielder Callum Slattery was part of the winning England squad.

June 11

England win Under-20 World Cup



Main picture - Cherries midfielder Lewis Cook lifts the Under-20 World Cup aloft. Lukas Nmecha, above right playing for Manchester City, scored England under-19s' European Championship winner last weekend.

History showed England had not won a game at the tournament in two decades, with a best-ever finish of third place in 1993.

History was duly turned on its head by Paul Simpson's highly-rated squad. A 1-0 win over Venezuela in South Korea's Suwon Stadium, secured by a first-half strike by Everton's Dominic Calvert-Lewin, was the culmination of a memorable campaign that also saw the Young Lions knock out Italy, Mexico and Costa Rica following an undefeated group phase.

Dominic Solanke, now of Liverpool, was named player of the tournament, Newcastle's Freddie



Callum Slattery

Woodman was awarded top goalkeeper status and the likes of Ademola Lookman, captain Lewis Cook, who plays for Cherries, and Kyle Walker-Peters all enhanced their growing reputations. If opportunities are not forthcoming at club level, questions will be asked.

June 27

England beaten semi-finalists in Under-21 European Championship

Defeat in the final four and, for many England followers, the worst kind: on penalties and against Germany. Aidy Bo-

PREMIER LEAGUE

for England



Saints winger Nathan Redmond misses his penalty during the European Under-21 Championship semi final against Germany.

throyd's side began with a stalemate versus Sweden before seeing off Slovakia 2-1 and hosts Poland 3-0 to top Group A.

In a see-saw battle against the old rivals Demarai Gray equalised a German opener before Tammy Abraham made it 2-1 with 20 minutes to go. England, skippered by Saints midfielder Ward-Prowse could not hold on and it came down to spot-kicks.

Abraham missed with the second of England's efforts, leaving Saints winger Redmond with the all-important fifth kick. He missed, Germany's Nadiem Amiri did not.

July 15

England win Under-19 European Championship

A stellar showing from Keith Downing's side, who won all five of their matches to take their maiden under-19 crown with a flawless 100 per cent record in Georgia.

Bulgaria were the first opposition to be brushed aside before a late winner edged Holland and they soared into the knockouts with a statement result - a 4-1 win over rivals Germany.

The depth of England's squad was a hallmark of their campaign but in the knockout stages the spotlight fell to Manchester City's Lukas Nmecha. He pounced for an injury-time winner in the semi-final against the Czech Republic and then conjured a memo-

table back-heel finish to seal a 2-1 triumph over Portugal in Gori.

And still to come...

Women's European Championship

England's Lionesses will attempt to claim their first Euro trophy in Holland over the next three weeks. They qualified as group winners, lie fifth in the FIFA world rankings and are among the favourites. They opened their campaign by thrashing Scotland 6-0 on Wednesday - Jodie Taylor hitting a hat-trick - and now face Spain and Portugal in their other Group D fixtures.

The England U19 Euro champion who lost 6-1 at Cheltenham last season!

England's Under-19s made it a summer to remember as they joined their Under-20 and Toulon counterparts in winning major silverware.

Here, the Daily Echo looks at the squad who won the European Championship with victory over Portugal in the final.

Aaron Ramsdale (Position: Goalkeeper. Age 19)

Came through Sheffield United's academy before joining Bournemouth in the January transfer window this year. Made his professional debut in a 6-0 FA Cup first round win against Leyton Orient last November. Also played in a 3-2 loss against Bolton in the second round.

Nathan Trott (Goalkeeper, 18)

Joined West Ham after a trial in 2016 and established himself as the under-23's number one during last season.

Dujon Sterling (Defender, 17)

Has come through Chelsea's development programme and has a professional deal through to 2019.

Jay DaSilva (Defender, 19)

England's captain, he swapped Luton for Chelsea in 2012 at the age of 13 along with brothers Carlton and Rio. Counts three FA Youth Cups and two UEFA Youth Leagues amongst his achievements. Was loaned out to Charlton in January and made six League 1 appearances for The Addicks.

Easah Suliman (Defender, 19)

Aston Villa defender who was on loan at Cheltenham in the first half of last season, making nine League 2 appearances.

Ryan Sessegnon (Defender, 17)

Fulham teenager was one of the stars of the Championship last season. Scored seven goals from 30 left-back appearances and appears destined for the very top, Sessegnon has caught the eye of Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp this summer.

Darnell Johnson (Defender, 18)

On Leicester's books, Johnson is the godson of former England striker Emile Heskey. Made one appearance for the Foxes' under-23 team in last season's Checkatrade Trophy - a 6-1 loss at Cheltenham.

Reece James (Defender, 17)

Won the Toulon tournament with England earlier this summer and now has a second medal. Player of the tournament at Toulon, James is on Chelsea's books and has been there since he was six. Played once for Chelsea's under-23s in the Checkatrade last term.

Andre Dozzell (Midfielder, 18)

Son of ex-Ipswich and Tottenham midfielder Jason Dozzell, Andre is on the books of Ipswich who he scored for on his senior debut aged 16 in April 2016 after coming on as a sub at Sheffield Wednesday.

Made nine appearances last season.

Mason Mount (Midfielder, 18)
Has been with Chelsea since he was six and has won the FA and UEFA Youth Cups with them. Has signed a professional deal through to 2021. Played in all three of Chelsea's Checkatrade Trophy ties last season.

Tayo Edun (Midfielder, 19)

Made his Fulham debut against Leyton Orient in a League Cup tie last season, and played in the next two rounds as well.

Josh DaSilva (Midfielder, 18)

Been on Arsenal's books since he was eight, goes by the full name Pelenda Joshua Tunga DaSilva. Broke into Arsenal's under-21s last season. Has yet to make his professional debut.

Marcus Edwards (Midfielder, 18)

Been with Tottenham's academy since the age of eight and was compared to Lionel Messi by boss Mauricio Pochettino on account of his low sense of gravity. He had a



Aaron Ramsdale

15-minute cameo appearance in a 5-0 League Cup thumping of Gillingham last season.

Jacob Maddox (Midfielder, 18)

Signed for Chelsea from Bristol City at the end of his under-14 year. Has won the UEFA and FA Youth Cups and has a professional deal through to 2018. Played twice in the Checkatrade Trophy last season.

Isaac Buckley-Ricketts (Forward, 19)

Pacey forward who signed professional terms with Manchester City, where he has been since he was 13.

Lukas Nmecha (Forward, 18)

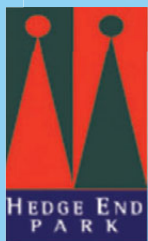
Germany-born, Manchester City forward hit England's winner in the final.

Ben Brereton (Forward, 18)

Picked up by Nottingham Forest after leaving Stoke. Made his Forest debut last season and went on to score three goals in 13 Championship starts, plus five more sub outings, and won the Football League's apprentice of the year award.

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Trev's debutants have struggled

Tom Westley will next week become the 10th player to make his England Test debut since Trevor Bayliss took over as head coach before the 2015 Ashes.

Dawid Malan and Toby Roland-Jones are also vying for their maiden appearances at the Kia Oval.

Of the previous nine, only two are in the squad for the third Test and none have established themselves as regular picks.

Here, the Sports Pink looks assesses how they have fared.

ADIL RASHID

(10 Tests, 38 wickets at 42.78)

The Yorkshire leg-spinner finally made his long-awaited bow on Bayliss' first overseas tour, against Pakistan in the UAE, but despite a first five-for in Dubai he managed only eight wickets in three Tests. Since then he has been restricted to sub-continental duties in Bangladesh and India and was a surprise omission at the start of the summer, seemingly consigned to white-ball duties for the foreseeable future.

ALEX HALES

(11 Tests, 573 runs at 27.28)

An attacking shot-maker picked to fill the cursed opener's slot in South Africa in the winter of 2015/16, Hales was curiously subdued on that trip, often outscored by the stately Alastair Cook, as if fighting to prove himself worthy of red-ball status. He made 83, 86 and 94 in the subsequent home series against Sri Lanka, but never came close to replicating his best one-day work. Declined to tour Bangladesh on safety grounds and now bats in the middle order for Nottinghamshire.

JAMES VINCE

(7 Tests, 212 runs at 19.27)

The Hampshire batsman was given the whole of last summer to prove his stylish strokeplay could translate to a substantial Test career, but repeatedly came up short against Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Far too loose outside off stump and managed a top score of 42 in 11 innings.

JAKE BALL

(3 Tests, 2 wickets at 114.00)

One of the worst records of all on paper, the tall Notts seamer may yet go on to forge one of the lengthier Test careers. Can expect to see action again despite lean early outings at Lord's, Mumbai and Chennai.

BEN DUCKETT



James Vince, above, and Liam Dawson, right.

(4 Tests, 110 runs at 15.71)

The left-hander's technique was as ruthlessly exposed as his stumps when he was fast-tracked into the side over the winter. Managed 56 against Bangladesh in Dhaka, but was otherwise picked apart by spin, first by the Tigers and then India. His next England appearance may have to come in the limited-overs arena.

ZAFAR ANSARI

(3 Tests, 49 runs at 9.80 and 5 wickets at 55.00)

Selected as a spin-bowling all-rounder to help England on the sub-continental surfaces of Bangladesh and India, Ansari never really convinced he was up to the high bar in either discipline. Within months the 25-year-old Cambridge graduate had quit the game altogether and taken up a job in the charitable sector.

HASEEB HAMEED

(3 Tests, 219 runs at 43.80)

Currently out of the picture on account of some truly dreadful form for Lancashire, but most pundits still predict a bright future for the 20-year-old opening batsman. He drew glowing notices for his temperament and technical prowess when drafted in to the side in India, making a gritty 82 in Rajkot then making a stern-faced 59 not out with a broken little finger in Mohali.

KEATON JENNINGS

(4 Tests, 211 runs at 26.37)

Drafted after Hameed's injury, the Durham batsman announced himself in style with 112 in his first international innings, but has made just 99 in seven subsequent knocks. He looks short on confidence and the vultures are already circling over gaps in his set-up at the crease.

LIAM DAWSON

(3 Tests, 84 runs at 21.00 and 7 wickets at 42.57)



His Test debut in the finale of the India series was seen initially as a quirk of touring life, but he was surprisingly retained for the start of Joe Root's captaincy era ahead of Rashid. A doughty player of esteemable character, he nevertheless looks likely to make way for more talented spin options sooner rather than later.

Toughest top flight title race of all time

Manchester City captain Vincent Kompany is expecting the toughest Premier League title race ever as spending has bred expectation.

Champions Chelsea gave their rivals a bloody nose last season, with Tottenham the only genuine contender as the campaign came to a close.

City have strengthened heavily after finishing 15 points shy of the Blues and Pep Guardiola is still looking for up to four more players after signing Ederson, Kyle Walker and Bernardo Silva for over £120m.

Manchester United have also responded to a difficult season, bringing in Victor Lindelof and Romelu Lukaku - for a combined fee of over £100m - after stumbling home in sixth.

Arsenal have smashed their transfer record to bring in striker Alexandre Lacazette, and Chelsea have done likewise to sign Real Madrid's Alvaro Morata.

Everton have splashed out close to £100m on new players, while Liverpool have signed £34m Mohamed Salah, have bid over



Vincent Kompany.

£60m for Leipzig's Naby Keita, and privately remain keen to pay a similar amount for Saints defender Virgil van Dijk.

Lukaku has been backed to flourish at Old Trafford by Belgium team-mate Kompany, who expects a title fight as exciting as it is competitive this term.

"It's hard to say who are going to be favourites," the City captain said.

"In my opinion, more teams than ever can - not just can, but have to - claim that they want to be Premier League champions.

"The distinction is important. They have to, because everybody is investing heavily at the moment.

"When it comes to Romelu, he's got one incredible ability and it's his desire to score goals.

"A lot of people have commented on Romelu over the years and he's taken a lot of criticism, but his biggest strength is the belief in himself and the ability to always score just goals and have this drive constantly.

"That's what Manchester United bought and that's what they're going to get from him.

"They've added a good player to their squad and it is going to increase the competition in the Premier League for the title."

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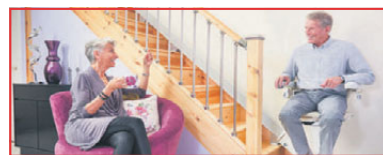
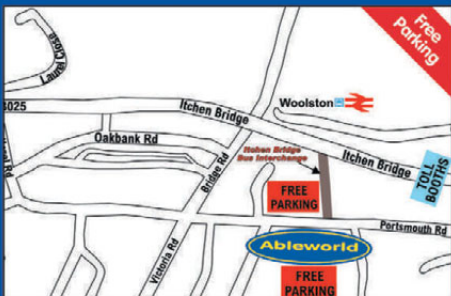
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Introducing England ...

England will be out to win their fourth Women's World Cup trophy at Lord's on Sunday. Here, in batting order, the Sports Pink profiles the winning semi-final team set to bid for glory at HQ:

Lauren Winfield: Opener Winfield has yet to produce her best in this World Cup. But the biggest stage is yet to come.

Tammy Beaumont: A revelation at the top of the order of late, including a hugely consistent tournament in which she has yet to be dismissed in single-figures and hit 148 in a second-wicket stand of 275 in victory over South Africa two weeks ago.

Sarah Taylor: England's supremely-talented wicketkeeper-batsman racked up 147 from only 104 balls in that same partnership. She wowed Bristol again with a brilliant stumping and a half-century in this week's semi-final win over South Africa again.

Heather Knight: The captain and a hugely-accomplished and technically correct batsman. Knight is England's banker in the middle order and a steady force at the helm.

Nat Sciver: Big-hitting Sciver has become the third international cricketer of note - after Kevin Pietersen and Tillakaratne Dilshan - to patent her own shot. The 'Natmeg' involves closing the face on a yorker



Sarah Taylor.

and knocking the ball between the legs out towards the deep-square boundary.

Fran Wilson: England's last specialist batsman provides the middle-order insurance in case those above her hit trouble.

Katherine Brunt: One of three survivors, alongside Taylor and Laura Marsh, from England's victory over New Zealand in the 2009 final. The go-to seamer with the new and old ball.

Jenny Gunn: All-rounder Gunn missed out on the 2009 final, having silenced doubts which surfaced at a cruel time about the legality of her distinctive bowling action. But eight years on, it was she who came up with the goods to make sure England booked their final spot as her crucial, unbeaten innings did the trick against South Africa.

Laura Marsh: The off-spinner has taken 109 wickets in her 87 ODIs. A reassuring option for Knight.

Anya Shrubsole: Completes England's seam armoury, but earned fresh recognition for her batting when she strode out at number 10 and promptly pasted her first ball past cover to clinch Tuesday's semi-final in Bristol.

Alex Hartley: The left-arm spinner who helps to balance England's attack has eight wickets in the tournament so far.

HANTS CRICKET

'Sad indictment'

Simon Carter



Former England captain Nasser Hussain says the failure of recent Test call-ups is a "sad indictment" of county cricket and a reflection of "abysmal" selection.

England crumbled on day four of the second Investec Test against South Africa, skittled for 133 en route to a series-levelling 340-run defeat.

Once again that exposed big problems in their top order, which has seen a rotating cast around mainstays such as Alastair Cook and Joe Root for the last couple of years.

Keaton Jennings and Gary Ballance both struggled again and find themselves under the spotlight ahead of the next match at the Oval, but Hussain believes the issue runs deeper than a pair of batsmen struggling for touch.

"The lads who are coming in aren't doing anything," Hussain said.

"They won at Lord's because of Joe Root...the ones they've won before have been because of Root, Ben Stokes, Moeen Ali, Jimmy Anderson, Stuart Broad in Johannesburg.

"The selectors are going to have to have a good long look at themselves because their record in the last two years - two years ago it was one-day cricket, now in Test match cricket - their selections have been abysmal.

"Name some lads who've come in: (James) Vince, (Ben) Duckett, (Gareth) Batty, (Zafar) Ansari...I can name a long list but no-one's coming in and doing well. Ballance, Alex Hales.

"It's a sad indictment of county cricket that all those lads are getting runs and wickets in county cricket but every time they're picked for England they're not."

Hussain was particularly alarmed by what he saw from Northamptonshire batsmen Duckett, who was dropped after a chastening time in the sub-continent over the winter, and Ballance's return after being twice dropped under head coach Trevor Bayliss.

"Duckett scored so many runs then played Ravi Ashwin in India and there was a glaring technical issue - exposing his stumps to the off-spinner. No-one picked up on that in county cricket. No-one.

"Selection is not just about saying 'Gary Ballance has 1,000 first-class runs so Gary Ballance plays'.

"Speak to umpires, speak to bowlers, has he actually changed? He hasn't changed a thing and we're getting exactly what we got

Vince, Duckett, Hales, Ballance have all failed - are there ANY batsmen in county cricket who can make the big step up ...?

James Vince in action for England last summer.



Liam Dawson appeals for a wicket during the first Test against South Africa at Lord's.

the last two times.

"He'll go back to county cricket and score runs again but that doesn't mean he's an international cricketer."

Another former England skipper, Geoffrey Boycott, was deeply unimpressed by the manner of England's reverse and predicted at least two changes for the next squad.

"(Liam) Dawson and Jennings will get replaced," he said.

"Some other areas, three batting areas, are not very good. They need better batsmen and a better attitude. The opening batsman Jennings looks vulnerable to the new ball. He left a gap that you could drive my car through.

"What hurts, and should hurt, is the way they played. There is

no shame in getting beaten, but it's the way you play.

"Only Alastair Cook made any effort to play in the sort of the way that the situation demanded."

Here, the Sports Pink looks at the players who have struggled to make the transition from county cricket to the Test arena.



HANTS CRICKET



on county game



Keaton Jennings is clean bowled as England are thrashed at Trent Bridge.



Gary Ballance in action for England at Trent Bridge.

James Vince

Was given the whole of the 2016 English domestic summer to impress in Tests, with three appearances against Sri Lanka and three against Pakistan.

In 11 innings, mainly batting at No 4, the Hampshire batsman failed to reach 50 once - with a top score of 42 (twice).

In his last Test, against Paki-

stan at The Oval, he scored just one run in two innings and lasted a total of six balls.

His Test average is just 19.27, compared to an overall first class average of 39.23

Ben Duckett

The Northants batsman won a place on last winter's tour of Bangladesh and India following a

superb 2016 for his county.

He scored two double tons in the Championship - an undefeated 282 against Sussex and 208 v Kent - as well as 189 v Notts. In addition, playing for England Lions in a one-day tri-series, he hammered 220 not out against Sri Lanka A and an unbeaten 163 against Pakistan A.

In four Tests, though, he scored

just 110 runs from seven innings at 15.71. He compiled 56 in his third Test - his first against India - but was then dropped after scoring 5 and 0 in the next Test.

Gary Ballance

The Yorkshire batsman made an impressive start to his Test career when scoring a century in his second Test - and his first on home soil - against Sri Lanka in 2014. Later that summer he scored 110 and 156 against India.

He was dropped for the Test series in India last winter after scores of 1, 9, 9 and 5 in Bangladesh, but recalled for this summer's South Africa series after a flood of Championship runs for Yorkshire.

His great run included scores of 120 and 55 against Hampshire at Headingley in the opening game of the season, and 108 and 203 not out in the return match at The Ageas Bowl a few weeks later.

He has yet to impress against the Proteas, though, with scores of 20, 34, 27 and 4.

Alex Hales

The Notts batsman has played almost 100 games for his country in ODIs and T20 internationals. But he only managed 11 Test appearances, following his debut in South Africa in December 2015 - averaging 27.28 from 21 innings.

Hales started his debut home series against Sri Lanka last summer well enough, scoring 83, 85 and 94. But the runs dried up against Pakistan and after making just 12 and 6 in his last Test of the summer at The Oval was not selected for the winter tour to Bangladesh and India.

Keaton Jennings

The South African-born Durham opener made a stunning 112 on his Test debut in India last winter. Then, after just one run in his next two innings, he hit 54 against the same opponents. Has struggled against the country of his birth this summer, scoring 6, 33, 0 and 3 in his four innings so far.

Liam Dawson

The Hampshire all-rounder's Test debut began well with an unbeaten 66 in his first innings against India in Chennai last winter. He then took 2-129 as the hosts rattled up 758-7 declared and was out for a duck in the second innings. A somewhat contentious choice to face South Africa in Joe Root's debut Test, he recorded a pair and match figures of 4-101 in England's victory. Kept his place for Trent Bridge, but scored 13 and 5 not out and took just one wicket. Will do well to win a fourth Test cap at The Oval next week.

World Cup numbers

England are through to the Women's World Cup final. Here, the Sports Pink highlights some of the numbers which have helped them get there and have formed the history of the tournament:

3 - England's World Cup trophies to date. They won the first on home soil in 1973, a tournament largely organised by their own captain Rachael Heyhoe Flint. They had to wait 20 years for their next success, though, again at home - and their other victory came in the 2009 final against New Zealand in Sydney.

35 - The margin of runs defeat for England in their opening match this summer against India at Derby on June 24. They were bowled out for 246 in 47.3 overs, in pursuit of India's 281 for three. England recovered their composure to then easily beat Pakistan at Leicester three days later, racking up 377 for seven, and have been on a roll ever since.

5 - The number of individual centuries England have made in the tournament. Big-hitting Nat Sciver leads the way with two on her own - while Tammy Beaumont, Sarah Taylor and captain Heather Knight have all reached three-figures too. Knight narrowly pips Taylor at the top of England's batting averages,



Rachael Heyhoe Flint

with 51.85. But Sciver is easily ahead among the quartet when it comes to strike rate - with a whopping 115.63.

3 - England have had near misses through the history of the tournament, finishing runners-up three times in succession in the 1970s and 80s - each time to Australia. There was no final in 1978, as in the inaugural edition five years earlier when a points table determined the silverware. But in Christchurch and Melbourne in 1982 and 1988, England had to give best to their rivals in consecutive 60-over finals.

27 - Jenny Gunn's unbeaten effort from number eight was priceless as she helped to get England home after a worrying wobble as they chased South Africa's 218 for six in their semi-final at Bristol on Tuesday.

103 - Key seamer Katherine Brunt is England's most experienced operator at 32, and she will be winning her 103rd ODI cap at Lord's on Sunday. She is still a fair way short of Charlotte Edwards' 191 ODI appearances, not to mention the former captain's 118 in the other formats - but with 57 Twenty20s and 10 Tests on her CV too, Brunt is no slouch.

HANTS CRICKET



Walking off with James Anderson after the last wicket on day four (PA)



During a frustrating first day



Walking off with Joe Root at the end South Africa's first innings on day three



Stuart Broad celebrates as Dawson catches Vernon Philander on day two

Liam keeps place in England squad

Simon Walter



Liam Dawson has retained his place in a 13-man England squad for next week's third Test against South Africa at The Oval, following the recent 340-run defeat at Trent Bridge.

England have added Essex's Tom Westley and Middlesex's Dawid Malan to the XI that the Proteas beat to level the four-match series in Nottingham.

Westley, who shared a 243-run stand with Alastair Cook against Hampshire at Chelmsford last month, will replace the injured Gary Ballance (fractured finger) at No 3.

If head coach Trevor Bayliss and captain Joe Root decide a second slow-bowling option is necessary alongside Moeen Ali, Dawson will continue his unexpected stint in the team, with Malan on hand as an alternative option to bolster the batting.



Celebrating with team-mates after dismissing Hashim Amla on day three

Dawson took two catches on the first day of the second Test, including a stunner at backward point to dismiss Dean Elgar off James Anderson at the end of the ninth over.

He finished with 7-1-26-0 and 11-1-42-1 after trapping Hashim Amla lbw for the second time in as many

matches as South Africa made 335 and 343-9d.

But he was out sweeping recklessly for 13 as England were skittled for 205 in their first innings, before finishing unbeaten on five when the hosts capitulated to 133 all out.



Celebrating with team-mates after dismissing Hashim Amla on day three (pictures by PA)



Keshav Maharaj celebrates with Vernon Philander after dismissing Liam Dawson on day two

HANTS CRICKET



KP may miss his Hampshire return

Simon
Walter



KEVIN Pietersen is expected to miss what would have been his first match at The Ageas Bowl for four years.

Pietersen aggravated a calf injury and ran out teammate Aaron Finch before calling for a runner, only to be dismissed by Steven Finn for four in Surrey's NatWest T20 Blast derby against Middlesex at The Oval last night.

It was a far cry from Tuesday, when he hit his first T20 fifty in England's domestic competition since his two in five appearances for Nottinghamshire in 2003-04.

His 35-ball 52 included four sixes in an over and took his aggregate for Surrey to 242 runs at 26.88 in 13 matches since his move from Hampshire in 2010.

He was unable to field because of the same calf injury as Surrey bounced back from successive defeats, having won their first two games.

But he still revelled in the occasion as Surrey completed the double over Essex.

"I absolutely loved it," he said.

"It's a date in the diary that I've looked forward to for a very long time since I signed the contract; to get out here and actually play and do what I did was magnificent.

"It's a little bit sore, but I'm 37 years of age.

"I know my body, if I'd gone out there and started sprinting, I could have done a lot of damage to it.

"I want to play, I'm desperate to bat, I love batting, and I know my body: if I need to pull up, I'll pull up.

"It's just nice to be batting.

"The art of batting: manipulating the field, hitting balls through the off side, picking length and stuff, that's what really excites me.

"The sixes are what they are, they're a by-product of the art of batting and I love the art of batting."

However, last night's match - which saw Surrey make 156-7 thanks to an opening stand of 68 between Jason Roy (29) and Aaron Finch (40) - was not such a happy occasion for KP. After running out Australian star Finch, he chipped Finn tamely to Toby Roland-Jones at mid-wicket before limping off.



Surrey's Kevin Pietersen in NatWest T20 Blast action during at The Oval this week. PRESS ASSOCIATION Photo

The injury is likely to rule him out of what would have been his fourth game against Hampshire since leaving seven years ago.

It would have been his first game against his former teammates since his unbeaten 24 guided Surrey to an eight-wicket T20 win at The Oval three years ago.

Barring a miraculous recovery, he will not now get the chance to put behind him the memory of his most recent appearances at

The Ageas Bowl.

Pietersen was famously booed off by the Hampshire faithful after being bowled first ball by Liam Dawson in a 40-over Trophy game in 2012 (Dawson also dismissed Pietersen for 0 in a T20 encounter at The Oval that season).

And his last England appearance on home soil saw him run out for 0 as Australia won a series decider at The Ageas Bowl in 2013.

Pietersen has made only four

T20 appearances at the ground he knew as The Rose Bowl (two for England in 2005 and 2006 and two for Hampshire in 2008 and 2010) and none since his final game for the county.

But the likes of Finch, Kumar Sangakkara and Jason Roy - not to mention the Curran brothers - will not be the only attractions, as Hampshire host their annual Family Festival.

The game begins at 2.30pm.

2017 results & fixtures

APRIL

2-4 Cardiff MCCU (h) FR
Hants 289 (Carberry 100) & 271-6d (Vince 90) drew with Cardiff 98 & 110-2.

7-10 Yorkshire (a) CC1
Yorkshire 273 & 187 (Abbott 7-41), Hants 141 & 321-6 (Adams 72). Hants won by 4 wickets

14-17 Middlesex (h) CC1
Middlesex 456 (Wheal 4-98) & 278-9 (Abbott 5-59), Hants 438 (Rossouw 99, Carberry 98). Drawn.

21-24 Yorkshire (h) CC1
Hants 455 (Vince 147, Berg 99no), Yorkshire 231 (Berg 4-62) & 399-6 (Abbott 3-65). Drawn

27 Kent (a) 50L
Kent 258, Hants 260-4 (Alsop 112no). Hants won by 6 wickets.

30 Essex (a) 50L
Essex 304-7, Hants 279 (Vince 68, Bailey 63). Hants lost by 25 runs.

MAY

3 Middlesex (h) 50L
Middlesex 295 (Gubbins 114, Topley 4-68) beat Hants 146-7 (Bailey 52no) by 89 runs (D/L)

7 Gloucestershire (h) 50L
Hants 239-3 (Vince 89*) beat Gloucs 237 (Dawson 3-30) by 7 wickets

10 Somerset (a) 50L
Hants 250-6 (Rossouw 156) beat Somerset 249 (Berg 3-44) by 4 wickets

12 Glamorgan (h) 50L
Hants 332-6 (Vince 178) lost to Glamorgan 334-7 (Crane 3-69) by 3 wickets

14 Surrey (a) 50L
Hants 271-8 (Bailey 145no) lost to Surrey 238-2 by 66 runs (D/L)

17 Sussex (h) 50L
Match abandoned

19-22 Essex (a) CC1
Essex 360 (K Abbott 5-58) beat Hants 115 & 148 by an innings and 97 runs.

26-29 Somerset (a) CC1
Hants 162 & 293 (Carberry 51) beat Somerset 197 & 168 (Crane 5-40) by 90 runs

JUNE

2-5 Warwickshire (h) CC1
Hants 515 (Adams 166, Ervine 203) beat Warks 254 & 167 by an innings and 94 runs

8-11 South Africa A (h) Fr
South Africa A 370-7d & 185-1d beat Hampshire 185 & 119 by 251 runs.

19-22 Lancashire (a) CC1
Hants (395 & 168) lost to Lancs (593) by an innings and 30 runs

26-29 Somerset (h) CC1
Hants 211-9d & 96-5d drew with Somerset 147 & 88-8

JULY

3-6 Surrey (a) CC1
Hants 648-7d, Surrey 483 & 166-3 (fo) Draw

7 Glamorgan (a) T20 Won by 22 runs
12 Sussex (a) T20 Won by 19 runs

14 Middlesex (h) T20 Won by 29 runs
20 Sussex (h) T20 Lost by 6 wickets

21 Essex (a) T20
23 Surrey (h) T20
26 Somerset (a) T20

28 Gloucestershire (a) T20

AUGUST

1 Kent (h) T20

3 Middlesex (Lord's) T20

4 Essex (h) T20

6-9 Lancashire (h) CC1

10 Glamorgan (h) T20

11 Kent (a) T20

18 Somerset (h) T20

22-25 T20 QF

SEPTEMBER

2 T20 Finals Day

5-8 Surrey (h) CC1

12-15 Middlesex (a, tbc) CC1

19-22 Essex (h) CC1

25-28 Warwickshire (a) CC1

Key

CC1 - Specsavers County Championship division one, 50L - Royal London

One-Day Cup, T20 - Natwest T20 Blast

Westley's Test chance?

Tom Westley will fill the gap left by Gary Ballance's injury at number three in the Oval Test.

Here, the Sports Pink casts an eye over the Essex batsman's CV to date.

GOOD COMPANY

As Essex's inked-in number three, Westley has spent a fair part of the summer already watching former Test captain and national record runscorer Alastair Cook piling plenty more on this summer. Westley has been no slouch himself this season, but Cook was in prolific form as he waited for England's Test schedule to resume. Should he get the nod for the Oval, Westley ought to feel at home - having also played alongside England's other incumbent opener Keaton Jennings for England Lions in his most recent first-class match.

LIONS RECONNAISSANCE

Westley did not waste that opportunity for England's second string against the touring South Africans. On the last day of the three-day fixture at Worcester, between June 29 and July 1, he finished with an unbeaten 106. Morne Morkel, Kagiso Rabada, Chris Morris and Keshav Maharaj were among the bowlers who could not get him out. There was no Vernon Philander at New Road, though.



Tom Westley.

EARLY START

He was already finding out what it is like to measure up against a Test player or two, at the age of 15. A young Westley made his Essex 2nd XI championship debut in 2004 against Middlesex opponents led by a player at the other end of the age scale - former England off-spinner John Emburey, then 51. Four years later, he was becoming an Essex first-team regular by the time he joined England at the Under-19s World Cup in Malaysia.

NATURAL LEADER

Westley has always been considered captaincy material, in age-group and university teams as well as England Under-19s. He was earmarked for further responsibility with England Lions too, as subsequently was Jennings, after impressing when the new 'recruits' were set initiative and management tasks at pre-tour sessions organised by head coach Andy Flower at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

BIT OF A BOWLER AS WELL?

Westley can bowl a little off-spin, and has taken 55 wickets in his 10-year first-class career. He is handy with the woods as well as the leather, though, having regularly played a few ends at Radwinter Bowls Club in Saffron Walden.

LOCAL CRICKET

SPL stars of the

Simon Carter



SOME well known names have played in the Southern Premier League in the 21st century.

At times, they have been among the leading runscorers and high wicket-takers lists. But not always, as the Sports Pink here illustrates by looking back at each season in the new millennium.

2000

Hungerford's David Pryke was the leading wicket-taker in the top flight with 40 victims at 11.40 - two more than Philip Loat of champions Havant.

Jo Ashton bagged 36 wickets for rock bottom Cove, while Andy Hooper of Andover took 35.

Andover's Roger Miller was the leading runscorer in the first year of the new millennium.

He struck six half centuries in 15 innings, with a top scorer of 96, for a total of 677 runs at 56.41.

He was followed by Hungerford's Jim Ettridge (648) and Havant's Andy Perry (642).

Leading century maker was future international Luke Ronchi, who struck three hundreds in a 630-run haul at 52.50.

Richard Kenway (BAT Sports) was fifth highest run-getter with 606 at 50.50.

2001

Dan Goldstraw (BAT) topped the wicket-takers list with 38 at 12.84, with Bashley's Matthew King three behind and Goldstraw's club colleague Richard Dibden four behind.

South Wilts' Russell Rowe was the leading runscorer with 857 at 57.13 - including an unbeaten 170 against Liphook & Ripsley.

Havant's Andy Perry was second with 704 runs at 64.00, with two large hundreds - 173 not out against Burridge and 160 not out against Calmore.

Bashley duo Neil Thurgood (695) and Andrew Sexton (626) also enjoyed good summers, with the latter hammering 182 against Andover.

2002

BAT ace Dan Goldstraw topped the top flight's wicket-taking list for a second summer, bagging 48 at 10.68.

That haul included 7-12 against Liphook and was 12 higher than next best Mackie

Kevin Nash (Bashley) took 33 wickets and BAT's Richard Dibden and James Hibberd of Calmore both claimed 31.

Kiwi wicket-keeper batsman Luke Ronchi of Bashley was the

Looking back at the highest runscorers and leading wicket-takers



Matt Metcalfe - four times the leading wicket-taker in the SPL top flight - appeals for a wicket. Main picture - South Wilts' Tom Morton was three times the leading runscorer in the top flight.

top run-getter, with 704 at 54.15.

He scored just three more runs - albeit from two fewer innings - than Alistair Gray of Liphook.

Damian Shirazi (BAT) scored 697 and Andover's Roger Miller 573.

2003

Bashley's Matthew King denied Dan Goldstraw a third successive 'most wickets' crown. King took 39 wickets at 15.35, with Goldstraw second with 35 at 17.48 - a haul which included 8-29 against Calmore Sports.

Bashley's Kevin Nash bagged 32 wickets and Joe Wilson of Bournemouth took 29.

Kiwi ace Neal Parlane broke

the SPL top flight's runscoring record with a remarkable 1,074 runs from 15 innings at 107.40.

Parlane struck four centuries - 166 not out against Andover, 150 against South Wilts, 117 not out against Calmore and 110 against South Wilts.

Andover's Toby Radford was some way adrift in second place with 668 runs, while ex-Hamp-



LOCAL CRICKET



21st century



Dan Goldstraw, below, was the top wicket-taker in the Southern Premier League in the early noughties.



shire batsman Richard Scott (Bournemouth) was third with 575.

2004

Individual statistics were not available for this year.

2005

Bashley's Matthew King was

the leading wicket-taker once more, with 40 victims at 15.37.

Second were Portsmouth's Paul Ancel, the ever consistent Dan Goldstraw (BAT), and Havant's Matthew Thistle who all claimed 35 wickets.

Batting wise, Liphook's Dominic Ridley hammered an unbeaten 184 against Andover as part of a 655-run haul at 43.66. But he still

had to be content with runner-up in the run stakes, as Bournemouth's Matthew Swarbrick struck 789 at 65.75.

Australian Chris Rogers (South Wilts) was third with 575, with Havant's Andy Perry fourth with 512.

2006

Three bowlers tied for 'most wickets' honours.

Havant's Richard Hindley, Alex Senneck of South Wilts and Alton's Julian Ballinger all claimed 36 victims - though Hindley had the lowest average of 16.94.

BAT's Guernsey-born Lee Savident - a former Hampshire batsman - compiled 886 runs, including three centuries - 153 not out against the Hampshire Academy, 109 against Bournemouth and 101 against Havant.

Havant's Cameron Merchant was second with 750 runs, ahead of Bashley's Neil Thurgood (691) and Bournemouth's Richard Scott (568).

2007

James Hibberd (Totton & Eling) bagged 42 wickets at 11.88 - six more wickets than clubmate Dan Goldstraw.

For a second summer running, Totton's Lee Savident was the highest scoring batsman - compiling 740 runs at 52.85.

In a great year for the Totton club, another former Hampshire batsman, Derek Kenway, was second top runscore with 545.

2008

James Hibberd celebrated his first season at South Wilts by again topping the wickets chart.

This time he took an impressive 57 at just 8.45, with Havant's Richard Hindley second with 50 at 10.70.

Ex-Hampshire batsman Lawrence Prittupaul was the leading run-scorer with 816 at 83.69 for Havant.

Clubmate Ben Walker was second with 581 and Jimmy Adams (St Cross) third with 574.

2009

Alton's David Taylor bagged 45 wickets at 14.35 - 12 more than next best Simon Cook of Lymington.

Richard Hindley (Havant) claimed 32 wickets, while James Hibberd (South Wilts) and Matt Metcalfe (Bournemouth) both took 30.

For the first time, a Hampshire Academy batsman scored more runs - Matthew Kleinveldt hitting 701 at 43.81.

Havant batsmen were second, third and fourth - Ben Walker (639), David Taylor (633) and Chris Morgan (589).

2010

Bournemouth's Matt Metcalfe claimed 44 wickets at 16.27 - four more than Simon Branstion of South Wilts and nine more than James Hibberd.

Lumb's best innings

Former Hampshire and England star Michael Lumb was this week forced to retire from all forms of cricket due to an ankle injury.

Here, the Sports Pink looks back at some of the opening batsman's most memorable limited overs performances in his career.

v Sussex, Hove, 2007

Lumb's first ever List A century came for Hampshire in a NatWest Pro 40 game down the south coast. He struck 108 off as many deliveries as Hampshire rattled up 260 - but still lost by two wickets.

v Middlesex, Ageas Bowl, 2009

Lumb scored exactly 100 and won the man of the match award as Hampshire progressed to the semi-finals of the Friends Provident Trophy. His 98-ball innings helped the hosts post 310-4, and he put on 156 for the first wicket with Jimmy Adams.

v Essex, Ageas Bowl, 2009

Lumb scored Hampshire's historic first ever T20 century, in blasting 124 not out against Essex off only 69 balls with 14 fours and four sixes. It remains the county's highest T20 innings.

v Middlesex, Ageas Bowl, 2009

Later that month, Lumb went agonisingly close to scoring another



Michael Lumb

T20 century - dismissed for a 52-ball 93 after smashing 11 fours and three sixes.

v West Indies, Antigua, 2014

Though he made his England T20 debut in 2010, Lumb had to wait four years to make his first appearance in 50-over cricket. He was an immediate hit, scoring 106 off 117 balls, with seven fours and two sixes. Asked to chase 270 for victory, England fell short on 254-8.

v Northants, Trent Bridge, 2016

Lumb blasted a one-day career best of 184 in a record breaking Royal London Cup tie. His 150-ball innings contained 21 hours and six sixes and he put on 342 in 29.2 overs for the first wicket with Rikki Wessels (146). Notts posted a huge 445-8 total - and won by just 20 runs.

v Warwicks, Trent Bridge, 2016

Just two days after the Northants game, Lumb smashed 133 off 108 balls as Notts again went on a run rampage in the Royal London Cup. This time he had 11 fours and five sixes as the hosts rattled up 415-6 off 50 overs.

v Durham, Riverside, 2016

Lumb struck his third RL Cup hundred in the space of 10 days - 105 off 101 balls with 12 fours.

Continued on page 32

LOCAL CRICKET



Top performers in the SPL in the 21st century

from page 31

Wilts' Tom Morton was the leading runscore, though, with 874 at 58.26.

Lymington's Morgan Rushbrook (*713) and Hampshire Academy's Benny Howell (660) were next highest.

2011

For the second year running, Matt Metcalfe (Bournemouth) was the leading wicket-taker with 37 at 18.62.

That was four more than Havant's Richard Hindley and six more than the Academy's Jamie Miller.

Alton's David Taylor compiled 704 runs at 50.28, with Havant's Ben Walker (689) and the Academy's Jake George (667) next highest.

2012

Former Hampshire seam bowler Richard Logan bagged 35 wickets for St Cross at 16.74 to finish as the top flight's leading wicket-taker.

Bashley's Kevin Nash and Logan's club colleague Matthew Perry-Lewis were joint second with 29.

For the second year running, David Taylor was the leading runscore - though this time he was playing for Totton & Eling.

His 491-run total is the lowest among highest-scoring batsmen in the 21st century.

2013

Current Australian ODI batsman Travis Head became the first Ventnor batsman to top the runscore list.

He struck 733 at 61.08 in his single summer on the Isle of Wight to finish ahead of Havant's Robert Gibson (689) and Ventnor colleague Ollie Mills (687).

Matt Metcalfe, by now at Lymington, topped the wicket-takers list for a third time. He bagged 34 wickets, three more than Bournemouth's Australian import Alex Keath.

2014

South Wilts' Tom Morton topped the runscore list for a second time, with 784 at 60.30.

Morton compiled four centuries - 161 against

Burridge, 135 against Totton & Eling, 114 against Havant and 111 against Burridge.

Richard Morris (Bashley) struck 628 runs, while the Academy's Tom Alsop had 607 runs at 86.71.

2015

Tom Morton was leading runscore for the second year running, and for the third time in his South Wilts career.

This time he compiled 931 runs - the highest seasonal total since Neil Parlane's record amount 12 years earlier.

Morton scored three tons in 2015 - 164 against Havant, 121 against the Academy and 106 against Alton.

Academy batsman Ben Duggan was next highest with 761 at 54.35.

Bashley's Tom Andrews was the leading wicket-taker with 44, ahead of Alton's Julian Ballinger



Former Ventnor batsman Travis Head in action for Yorkshire last year,

(43) and Ryan Duffield of South Wilts (41).

2016

Havant's Ben Walker scored 739 runs at 67.18, with Bashley's Michael Porter (608) and the Academy's Brad Taylor (575) next highest.

There was a familiar name at the top of the wicket-takers list - Lymington's Matt Metcalfe. This time he claimed 40 wickets at 16.50 to finish ahead of Alton's Julian Ballinger (37) and Burridge's Geoff Dods (33).

● Don't miss Mike Vimpany's SPL round-ups in the Daily Echo every Monday and Tuesday.

Hartley Wintney aim for cup repeat

The Basingstoke-based Guy Jewell T20 knockout competition is reaching its climax, with 2016 winners Hartley Wintney set to defend their trophy against East Woodhay in the quarter-finals on Thursday evening

(July 27). Provided they beat AWRE, Basingstoke & North Hants will play Rotherfield Park and all their Alton players (August 3), with Odiham & Greywell meeting Yateley two days later. Hook & Newnham Basics face

Old Basing in the last quarter-final on August 10.

May's Bounty hosts all the Guy Jewell Cup matches, including the final on Bank Holiday Sunday August 27.

Bragging rights are up for grabs

Mike Vimpany



BASHLEY Rydal) and Lymington will be looking to frank their title credentials when they duel for the New Forest bragging rights today (11am).

Second-placed Lymington, whose last win against Bashley in the British Gas Southern Premier League came in July 2011, arrive at the BCG on the back of a crushing Dom Hand inspired 181-run victory over Alton seven days ago.

Bashley, meanwhile, have slipped to fourth after suffering successive defeats at the hands of Burridge and Havant, having been skittled for just 97 and 106, respectively.

The reverse fixture in May saw Ed Ellis finish on the losing side despite cracking a second consecutive century for Lymington against Bashley.

His efforts were eclipsed by those of South Australian Pat Page, whose sparkling 115 guided Bashley to a comfortable six-wicket victory.

With leaders South Wilts on a five-match winning run, both Bashley (Rydal) and Lymington will be desperate for the points in order to maintain their respective challenges.

Victory for Lymington would also see them steal a march in the race for the Time pennant - with Bashley the recipients of the award last season.

Hand will go into the Kings of the Forest derby confident after his maiden Premier Division century in Lymington's win over Alton, who go to South Wilts today.

His 106 wasn't his first Southern League century - he made 116 against Basingstoke & North Hants II in an SPL3 match in 2015, when he went on to make first team scores of 86 against Burridge and 90 against Alton.

Hand has been consistent in support roles this season, with a solitary 55 against Burridge and four 40-plus scores prior to last weekend's hundred.

● Hursley Park are hosting the



Dom Hand

Winchester & District CA Tichborne and Iglesden Trophy T20 finals at The Quarters next Thursday (July 27).

Favourites Rotherfield Park go

head-to-head with Tichborne Park in the Tichborne Trophy final, while Hursley Park's own midweek team plays Wickham in the Iglesden final, both at 6.15pm.

LOCAL CRICKET



Ireland inspires Romsey to five wicket win



Jack Robson

With three defeats in ten, Ropley need a winning last third of the season if they are to break into the Hampshire County League's top three – but a Jack Ireland inspired five-wicket victory over Shrewton was a start.

Dan Bingley (56) enabled the Shrews to recover from 136-5 (Martin Peters 3-30) to post 207-8 – a total Ropley chased down, thanks initially to Jimmy Hawkings (30).

Ropley wobbled at 72-3, but Ireland's forceful 67 not out got

them home.

Jack Robson's 85 was a match winner for Hook II, who checked OTs & Romsey's recent surge with a five-wicket win at the KGV.

Out of their depth

Gus Flack and Mike Trodd earlier hit fifties in OTs' 216.

The season can't end quick enough for Rowledge II, who have been out of their depth in County 1 since the start.

Their tenth defeat in 11 outings

came after James Burridge (77) and Kevin Neave (50) had guided visiting St Cross Symondians III to 228-6 and the seasoned Alan Whitman had taken 5-50 to reduce the R's to 158.

Fareham & Crofton's wins are seldom without drama, so chasing down a United Services total of 172 (Ben White 4-7) eight down had a few finger nails being gnawed.

Tom Kent (45) was a steady influence, but it needed Dan Reader to make a key 33 and get Fareham home.

Sunday best for 'Stoke

Basingstoke & North Hants are poised to experience their first taste of 'white ball' competitive Sunday cricket with Weybridge visiting May's Bounty on Sunday (1.30) for the first of four Serious Cricket backed Challenge matches.

The Bountymen will wear their familiar blue and gold pyjama kit and play against black sightcreens in a series of Sunday afternoon games which will see Finchampstead, Richmond and Falkland also visit the Bounty in the coming weeks.

Organiser David Price explained: "We are working to try to bring back some more competitive Sunday cricket and we've lined up a series of attractive games, which we hope the players

Ryde's title stutter

Mike
Vimpany



Ryde's push for Hampshire League honours has hit a double blip.

Successive defeats by Hook & Newnham Basics II and Hythe & Dibden dropped the islanders' four places in the County Division 1 log.

And put massive emphasis on the outcome of today's rain-threatened visit to Longparish and the August 5 meet-up with Portsmouth & Southsea.

Ryde looked to be running away with it a fortnight ago, but a two-wicket defeat by Hythe at Jones Lane (after losing to Hook) are serious setbacks to their aspirations.

It looked as though Hythe might make easy work of Ryde's 205 when Matt Young (27) and Inam Agam (36) opened up with a 62-run start.

It was a different ball game with Hythe 105-5, but Bath University ace Zac Millar produced a match winning 63 not out, his stand with Matt Howe (25) putting the Watersiders back in the driving seat.

Stutter

Ryde's stutter has allowed pre-season favourites Portsmouth & Southsea to break ten points clear of Longparish at the top, with high scoring Lymington II third.

P & S reclaimed top spot with a three-wicket win at Bishops Waltham – a victory which owed much to Jack Peach (35) and Chris Turrell (29), who got the visitors home after a late wobble had threatened to damage their chances.

Bishops' built their 200-9 around Don Quincey (57) and Sam Medhurst (30), whose three wicket spell dropped Southsea from the comforts of 150-4 (Shaun Briggs 41).



Zac Millar

Promoted each of the past two seasons, Longparish will relish their prospects of another upgrade if they emerge unscathed from Ryde's scheduled visit.

They were in holiday mood, taking their overnight camping tents to Steephill, where they beat depleted Ventnor II by nine wickets in a match that was done and dusted inside 30 overs.

Like many clubs, Ventnor are struggling to field sides these days and it was little surprise when Longparish bundled them out for a meagre 73, with Jack Levy and Matt Jackman sharing

six of the wickets.

Will de Cani's unbeaten 49, which completed formalities, took his season's run tally to 545 – and to within sight of Ben Wadmore's 631 aggregate for Ryde.

On paper, Longparish don't appear to have a terribly taxing run-in, but the Test Valley club are all too conscious that mid-table Shrewton thrashed them earlier this summer, so are taking nothing for granted.

Lymington II ran amok on Sarisbury's compact Allotment Road ground, smashing their hosts for 379-4 before running out

enormous 304-run winners.

Australian Billy Quigley led the run romp with two sixes and 14 fours in his 114 which, with Tom Atkins (63) alongside, saw Lymington to 227-2.

The dispirited Sarisbury attack was then taken to the proverbial cleaners as former Hampshire Academy prospect Felix Ambrose literally destroyed them with 91 off 48 balls – with six maximums and another seven fours. Josh Royan (45) compounded the agony.

Kieron Moors (6-37) and Trevor Phillips (3-35) bowled Sarisbury into total submission at 75 all out.



Mitchell Stokes

and local spectators will support."

To ensure there's a competitive edge to the 45-over games, a £250 Serious Cricket equipment voucher will be awarded to each winning team.

Basingstoke captain Mitchell Stokes is hoping all his current first team squad, excluding the globe trotting Will Phillips, will make themselves available.

"We are looking for promotion into Premier Division and, if that's achieved, we will be playing white ball cricket on a regular basis next summer, so it's important we familiarise ourselves with it," he said.

"David has lined up a series of attractive matches for four of the next five Sundays, so let's hope everyone supports the venture."

Basingstoke: Oates, Froud, Griffiths, Coombs, Dyer, Smith, J Belcher, Mathew, Hawkes, Benfield, Jolley.

YOUTH FOOTBALL NOSTALGIA, 2004-05 - CAN YOU



Fawley Falcons



Pace Cougars under-11s



West Totton Wanderers under-12s



Hillcrest Youth Under 12s



Hillcrest Youth Under 15s



Eastleigh Imperials under-13s.



Itchen Tyro U10s



Eling Under 11s

SPOT ANY FAMILIAR FACES IN THESE TEAM PHOTOS?



Totton Tornadoes Under 14s



Earls Under 11s



Albion Under-11.



Hedge End B under-11s.



Pace Tigers under 10s



Totton Rangers under-10s



Brendon Under 11s



Hedge End Rangers Under 11s



Albion Boys U12 A

YOUTH FOOTBALL NOSTALGIA 2004-05 - CAN YOU



Hythe Hotspurs Under-14s



Eastleigh Rangers (age unknown)



Hedge End Rangers (age unknown)



Testwood under-12s.



Dougland under-12s.



Hedge End B under-13s.



St Francis (age unknown)



Oakwood under-13s.

SPOT ANY FAMILIAR FACES IN THESE TEAM PHOTOS?



Testwood under-15s



BTC Southampton under-13s.



Douglad U12s



AFC Hiltigbury under-15s.



Cupernham under-14s.



Winchester under-12s.



Marchwood under 12.



Hedge End under 13s

YOUTH FOOTBALL NOSTALGIA 2004-05 - CAN YOU



Bitterne under-12s.



Colden Common under-14s



Tadburn Cougars under-13s.



Hythe Strikers under 14s



Tadburn under-15s



Totton Tornados U14



Hythe Strikers under-11s



City Central U12

SPOT ANY FAMILIAR FACES IN THESE TEAM PHOTOS?



Weston under-12s



Testwood under-11s



Littleton B under-13s.



Eastleigh Town U14s



Bishop's Waltham under-15s



Colden Common under-13s



BTC Solent under-15



Totton Rangers under-15

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- 27 Aug: Happy in Harrogate - 5 day £369
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- 8 Sept: Gardens of Cornwall - 4 day £259
- 13 Sept: The Baltic Coast - 8 day £825
- 17 Sept: Cumbrian Countryside - 5 day £369
- 18 Sept: Durham, Beamish & Herriot - 5 day £389
- 24 Sept: Summer Sunday Star Cabaret - 2 day £119
- 25 Sept: Sidmouth Jurassic Coast - 5 day £373
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PINK

Federer - he's simply the best

Most men's Grand Slam tennis titles ...

19

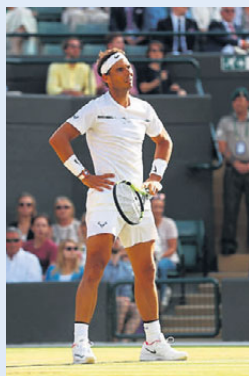
Roger Federer (Swiss) - 8 Wimbledon (2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012, 2017) 5 Australian Open (2004, 2006, 2007, 2010, 2017) 5 US Open (2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008) 1 French Open (2009)

15

Rafael Nadal (Spain) - 10 French Open (2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2017) 2 Wimbledon (2008, 2010) 2 US Open (2010, 2013) 1 Australian (2009)

14

Pete Sampras (USA) - 7 Wimbledon (1993, 1994, 1995, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000) 5 US Open (1990, 1993, 1995, 1996, 2002) 2 Australian Open (1994, 1997)



Rafael Nadal

12

Novak Djokovic (Ser) - 6 Australian Open (2008, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016) 3 Wimbledon (2011, 2014, 2015) 2 US Open (2011, 2015) 1 French Open (2016)

12

Roy Emerson (Aus) - 6 Australian Open (1961, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967) 2 French Open (1963, 1967) 2 Wimbledon (1964, 1965) 2 US Open (1961, 1964)

11

Bjorn Borg (Swe) - 6 French Open (1974, 1975, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981) 5 Wimbledon (1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980)

11

Rod Laver (Aus) - 4 Wimbledon (1961, 1962, 1968, 1969) 3 Australian Open (1960, 1962, 1969) 2 French Open (1962, 1969) 2 US Open (1962, 1969)

10

Bill Tilden (USA) - 7 US Open (1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1929) 3 Wimbledon (1920, 1921, 1930)

Numbers behind Garbine's SW19 success



Garbine Muguruza

Garbine Muguruza wrote her own fairytale in the Wimbledon women's singles final as she denied Venus Williams a dream sixth title.

The Spaniard won 7-5 6-0 on Centre Court for her first Wimbledon triumph and second grand slam success.

Here is a look at the match in numbers:

4 - Williams dropped serve four times, while Muguruza held throughout the match. Muguruza did not drop serve in her quarter-

final or semi-final wins either.

5 - Muguruza will climb from 15th to fifth in the new WTA world rankings on Monday.

9 - From 5-4 behind in the first set, Muguruza won nine straight games to take the title.

19 - Muguruza won a vital 19-point rally at 5-5 and at 15-40 on her serve in the opening set.

26 - The second set sped by in just 26 minutes, and Williams won

a mere 12 points. In all, the match lasted an hour and 17 minutes.

33 - Williams won just 33 per cent of points on her second serve, as Muguruza went on the attack.

77 - Williams might have had the fastest serve at 114mph, but Muguruza's 77 per cent win rate on her first serve was huge. Venus was down at 61 per cent by the end of the contest.

2,200,000 - Amount Muguruza won in English pounds.

Roger, a class apart ...

Mark Staniforth

Roger Federer won a record eighth Wimbledon title by beating Marin Cilic 6-3 6-1 6-4 in the final.

Federer's victory means he pulls clear of Pete Sampras and William Renshaw, who are both tied on seven triumphs, in the all-time list of male Wimbledon champions.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at why the Swiss is the greatest man ever to play the game.

Numbers

Federer has now won 19 grand slam titles, the most of any male player in history. He is four clear of Rafael Nadal, five ahead of Pete Sampras and has seven more than Roy Emerson and Novak Djokovic.

He has reached an all-time record 29 grand slam finals, 42 semi-finals and 50 quarter-finals. He is the only player to have won three different grand slams at least five times and his 302 weeks spent at world number one is the most of any man since the list began in 1973.

Longevity

Federer won his first grand slam title at Wimbledon in 2003, with his most recent, also on Centre Court, coming 14 years later. For comparison, Nadal's major triumphs have spanned 12 years, Djokovic's eight years, Pete Sampras' 12 years and Rod Laver nine years. Federer has re-invented himself in 2017 after it looked like he had won his last grand slam at Wimbledon in 2012. He has adjusted his game and refreshed his body. The results are there for all to see.

Rivals

Not only has he won the most



Roger Federer

grand slam titles but Federer has done it during the greatest era of men's tennis.

He has had several rivals during his long career, starting with Leyton Hewitt and Andy Roddick but his fiercest rivals have been Nadal, Djokovic and Murray. Nadal and Djokovic, in particular, are unquestionably among the finest players of all time, with 27 major wins between them.

Nine out of 10 of Federer's grand slam final defeats have been against one of those two.

In a less competitive era, Federer could have won even more.

Style

For all the statistics in Federer's favour, his greatest legacy will be his majestic style of play. While Nadal, Djokovic and Murray are all to varying degrees exceptional defenders and brilliant from the baseline, Federer's style has always been to attack.

His eight Wimbledon titles are testament to his touch and creativity while Nadal's emergence challenged Federer to win points from the back as well as the net.

Federer's elegance has won him fans all the world over. There is hardly a court on the planet where is not the home favourite.

Personality

Every champion has a talent on the court but not every one has carried their position with such class and dignity as Federer.

The 35-year-old is immensely popular among competitors on both the men's and women's tour alike while his views on how to make the game better, whether it be on rules or more sensitive issues, are the most respected of any player past or present.

He has been voted by the public as the most popular player on tour for the 14th time in a row. Win or lose, Federer is a class apart.

PINK

Who's in the running for BBC Sports award?



Anthony Joshua

Liverpool's Echo Arena will host this year's BBC Sports Personality of the Year awards on Sunday, December 17, the broadcaster announced on Monday.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at 10 contenders.

ANTHONY JOSHUA - 1/3

The heavyweight world champion is favourite to become the first boxer since Joe Calzaghe in 2007 to win the award following his April victory at Wembley over Wladimir Klitschko.

JERMAIN DEFOE - 5/1

The recalled England striker, who recently moved from Sunderland to Bournemouth, befriended Bradley Lowery, the six-year-old mascot who died of cancer earlier this month.

JOHANNA KONTA - 10/1

The 26-year-old became the first British woman to reach the Wimbledon semi-finals since Virginia Wade in 1977.

LAURA MUIR - 14/1

The Scot is highly fancied to do well over 1,500 metres and 5,000m at the IAAF World Championships in London in August.

LEWIS HAMILTON - 20/1

The 2014 winner is chasing his fourth Formula One world title and won a record-equalling fifth British Grand Prix on Sunday.

MO FARAH - 20/1

The four-time Olympic champion is seeking to sign off from his track career in London by adding to his five world titles.

CHRIS FROOME - 25/1

The cyclist is in contention for a fourth Tour de France title in five years this month.

ANDY MURRAY - 33/1

An injury-plagued year means the winner of SPOTY in three of the last four years is an outsider this time.

KATERINA JOHNSON THOMPSON - 33/1

Much is expected of the Liverpoolian in London following the retirement of fellow heptathlete Jessica Ennis-Hill.

Best and worst of Wimbledon 2017

Wimbledon produced thrills and spills over its two weeks.

Here is a look at selected moments that stood out from the championships.

TOP SAGA

Andy Murray's hip - From Uri Geller urging newspaper readers to send positive energy by touching a picture of Murray, through to the moment the joint pain finally proved the Scot's undoing in the quarter-finals, this was the soap opera of the championships. His every wince was analysed, and while Murray was adamant he was fit to play seven matches, it turned out that four and a half was his limit. It was painful to watch an incapacitated Murray being swatted out of the tournament by Sam Querrey, but be assured it hurt Murray more, physically and mentally.

TOP ROW

Turf war - Grass was the battleground between the players and the sport's administrators, with a host of top stars grumbling about the state of the courts after a sizzling first week of weather in south-west London. The blades around the baseline were trampled down almost to dust, more so than in previous years according to the disgruntled players, and Novak Djokovic complained after his fourth-round win over Adrian Panatta that a hole had appeared on Centre Court. Some players felt the conditions were dangerous. Wimbledon said it was business as usual and that the courts were no different to previous years.

CONTROVERSY



Andy Murray in pain as he bows out of Wimbledon.

Court case - Wimbledon has for many years put more men's matches than women's matches on its two main show courts, Centre Court and Court One.

This year disenchantment over that bias reached boiling point - especially when a match between

top seed Angelique Kerber and eventual champion Garbine Muguruza was handed a Court Two slot. It was a clear stand-out on the schedule, and worthy of a bigger stage.

All England Club chief executive Richard Lewis said: "It's not

about male or female, in the end it's about which matches you feel the public and broadcasters want to see."

Same time, same controversy next year then.

TOP MATCH

Nadal v Muller - Rafael Nadal was fancied by many to add the Wimbledon title to his 10th French Open triumph, and he played some dazzling tennis through the opening three rounds.

But then he came across a grass-court natural in Gilles Muller, a veteran left-handed Luxembourgier who had beaten a ghost of Nadal's Wimbledon past, Lukas Rosol, earlier in the tournament. And Muller refused to bow to Nadal, even as his early two-set lead was whittled away.

It came down to a titanic decider, and Muller brilliantly came through 15-13, after a clash lasting 12 minutes short of five hours.

TOP TWEET

"M. Cilic is the first ever Wimbledon finalist with a name entirely made up of Roman Numerals #Wimbledon" - BBC Pointless co-host Richard Osman (@richardosman).

TOP RANT

Bernard Tomic - The Australian talked himself into £11,000 worth of trouble - the size of his fine - after a first-round capitulation to Mischa Zverev. He admitted calling the trainer when he was not injured, in a strategic move to disrupt the match, and said he felt "bored out there", adding: "I believe you have to respect the sport. But I think I don't respect it enough."

Margaret out in front

Most Women's Grand Slam singles tennis titles ...

24

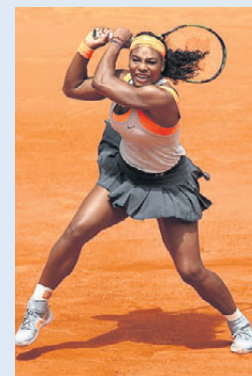
Margaret Court (Aus) - 11 Australian Open (1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1973) 5 French Open (1962, 1964, 1969, 1970, 1973) 5 US Open (1962, 1965, 1969, 1970, 1973) 3 Wimbledon (1963, 1965, 1970)

23

Serena Williams (USA) - 7 Wimbledon (2000, 2002, 2008, 2009, 2012, 2016) 7 Australian Open (2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2015, 2017) 6 US Open (1999, 2002, 2008, 2012, 2013, 2014) 3 French Open (2002, 2013, 2015)

22

Steffi Graf (Ger) - 7 Wimbledon (1988, 1989, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1995, 1996) 6 French Open (1987, 1988, 1993, 1995, 1996, 1999) 5 US Open (1988, 1989, 1993, 1995, 1996) 4 Australian Open (1988,



Serena Williams

1989, 1990, 1994)

19

Helen Wills Moody (USA) - 8 Wimbledon (1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1932, 1933, 1935, 1938) 7 US Open (1923, 1924, 1925, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1931) 4 French Open (1928, 1929, 1930, 1932)

18

Chris Evert (USA) - 7 French Open (1974, 1975, 1979, 1980, 1983, 1985, 1986) 6 US Open (1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1980, 1982) 3 Wimbledon (1974, 1976, 1981) 2 Australian Open (1982, 1984)

18

Martina Navratilova (USA) - 9 Wimbledon (1978, 1979, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1990) 4 US Open (1983, 1984, 1986, 1987) 3 Australian Open (1981, 1983, 1985) 2 French Open (1982, 1984)

12

Billie Jean King (USA) - 6 Wimbledon (1966, 1967, 1968, 1972, 1973, 1975) 5 US Open (1964, 1967, 1974, 1978, 1980) 1 French Open (1972)

PINK

Wimbledon 2017 numbers

4 - Garbine Muguruza became the fourth Spaniard to win a Wimbledon singles title, following in the footsteps of Manuel Santana, Conchita Martinez - who coached Muguruza at Wimbledon - and Rafael Nadal.

37 - Venus Williams was the oldest finalist in the women's singles since Martina Navratilova in 1994.

12 - There were 12 retirements during the singles events, seven of them in the first round of the men's tournament.

473,372 - The cumulative attendance figure for the fortnight. This is just over 20,000 fewer than in 2016, when there was play on Middle Sunday.

3,290 - The number of aces served in the men's and women's singles tournaments.

35 - Britain's Johanna Konta



Venus Williams

topped the standings for aces in the women's event.

39 - Konta became the first British woman to reach the semi-finals in the singles since Virginia Wade 39 years ago.

7.4million - The number of people who watched the climax of Konta's quarter-final victory over Simona Halep on the BBC.

143 - Georgia's Nikoloz Basilashvili sent down the fastest serve of the tournament at 143 miles per hour.

10 - Andy Murray reached the quarter-finals for the 10th consecutive year but went no further, succumbing to Sam Querrey and a hip injury.

7 - The number of grand slam titles chalked up by the Murray family after Jamie won his second Wimbledon mixed doubles crown.

21 - out of 127 men's singles matches, 21 went to five sets.

87 - Magdalena Rybarikova had a brilliant run to the semi-finals and has seen her ranking jump from 87 to 33.

5 things not to miss in the racing week ...

REEL RECORD? - Highland Reel will bid to add his name to an elite band as he appears to be the headline name for Saturday's King George VI And Queen Elizabeth Stakes at Ascot. Only Dahlia (1973 and 1974) and Swain (1997 and 1998) had won back-to-back renewals of the midsummer highlight and it would be a brave punter who goes against Aidan O'Brien's battle-hardened star. With the Coronation Cup and Prince of Wales's Stakes in the bag already this term, Highland Reel is on a roll and while the likes of Frontiersman and Ulysses could be in opposition, Highland Reel is rightly a short price for another sparkling display.

YORK STARS - All Saints provide the post-race entertainment at York on Saturday, but long before the 90s darlings take the stage, the Sky Bet York Stakes should serve up memorable moments. The decision of the Almanzor team not to make the trip to the Knavesmire is a blow, but the Group Two contest remains an excellent testing ground for any horse with Juddmonte International pretensions.

TYROS TEST - Thursday's evening fare at Leopardstown is a joy to behold, with the Silver Flash Stakes and Tyros Stakes sharing top billing. The Tyros has

developed into something of a key juvenile event of the season in recent times with the last three renewals going to Aidan O'Brien by virtue of Gleneagles, Deauville and Churchill. Look bit further back on the roll of honour and you'll see the likes of Rip Van Winkle, Teofilo and New Approach - so ignore the winner at your peril.

DEAUVILLE DELIGHTS - Qemah could be the star of the show at Deauville on Sunday as the Prix Rothschild has been on her agenda since her Royal Ascot success. Jean-Claude Rouget's filly will be seeking back-to-back victories having landed the Group One event over a mile

in 2016, but the race always draws a fine field and Falmouth victor Roly Poly could make a swift return for the O'Brien.

POMFRET PRIZE - Pontefract's Pomfret Stakes has gained plenty of momentum since its inception in 2004, graduating from a handicap to conditions status before achieving its current Listed grade. It is easy to see why, as recent winners include dual Grade One scorer Mondialiste (2015) and multiple Pattern-race hero Custom Cut (2014). Convey was the winner last year and his subsequent Winter Derby and Easter Classic successes on the all-weather only further emphasise its value.

What next for Lewis?

Lewis Hamilton is facing fresh scrutiny over his future after he refused to confirm that he would see out the remaining 18 months of his Mercedes deal.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at the questions surrounding Hamilton's future.

What's the story?

Hamilton has 18 months remaining on his three-year contract with Mercedes. But the Briton, speaking after his emphatic Silverstone victory, said he will consider his future over the winter break.

What are his options?

Hamilton could choose to retire from the sport, leave Mercedes and join Ferrari - with Vettel's future beyond this year also uncertain - or stick with the team with which he has won two championships, and potentially three, should he triumph again this season.

Why is he being vague?

This is the third occasion in which Hamilton has publicly hinted that he could retire. Hamilton speaks of his admiration for Mercedes - on Sunday night he paid tribute to the team's catering staff, engineers, mechanics, his personal physio Angela Cullen, and the team's head of communications, Bradley Lord. But Hamilton, for whatever reason, could not bring himself to say he will honour his current deal. Has his head been turned by a career swansong with the most famous team of all, Ferrari? Or could he even take a sabbatical to pursue other ambitions outside of the sport?

What about Vettel?

Vettel is out of contract with Ferrari at the end of the year, and as Red Bull team principal Christian Horner said on Sunday night: "Sebastian holds the key to the driver market." Vettel is expected



Lewis Hamilton celebrates his victory at Silverstone last weekend.

to remain with the Italian team, but it would also make sense for Mercedes - a German team - to sign Germany's leading driver.

Could Vettel team up with Hamilton?

Mercedes still harbour the scars of Hamilton's toxic rivalry with Nico Rosberg, and they would not want to risk a repeat scenario. One theory is that Mercedes may

try to lure Vettel when Hamilton's contract expires at the end of next season with the Briton, should he still be on the grid, moving in the other direction.

Will Hamilton be in F1 next year?

Hamilton often contradicts himself. Ahead of last month's Azerbaijan GP he hinted he could leave the sport at the end of the

year, only to claim later that weekend that he could race on until he is 40. But after alluding to retirement again at Silverstone, it has to be an idea running through his mind. He will eclipse Michael Schumacher's pole position record with two further qualifying triumphs, while a fourth title will see him decorated as the standalone greatest British driver of all time. Could that be enough for Hamilton to say farewell?

PINK

How boxing has helped new Blue Bakayoko



Tiemoue Bakayoko

Chelsea have completed the signing of France midfielder Tiemoue Bakayoko from Monaco.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at five interesting facts about the 22-year-old.

1. While Bakayoko may have emerged as one of the most sought-after defensive midfielders in Europe, as a youngster there was no space for him at France's fabled Clairefontaine academy and his development was also hampered by suffering a broken leg.

Bakayoko played for local club CA Paris-Charenton before eventually moving on to Rennes, where the teenager quickly established himself in the first-team set-up

and made his Ligue 1 debut in August 2013 against Evian.

2. It was not a dream start to life at Monaco following his 8million euro (£7.1m) switch in the summer of 2014, as he was hauled off after only 32 minutes of his debut against Lorient and then found himself on the sidelines at the start of 2015 because of a thigh injury which would keep him out until May.

3. The arrival of ex-Chelsea star Claude Makelele on the Monaco coaching staff helped Bakayoko channel his focus, both on and off the field.

The player's renaissance included taking

up boxing lessons as well as adopting a fresh approach to diet and trading his flashy pink car in for a more conservatively-toned model.

4. Bakayoko could have qualified to play for the Ivory Coast through his parents but after coming through Les Bleus' youth ranks from under-16s through to the under-21s, the midfielder was finally handed his senior international debut against Spain in March 2017 when called up as a replacement for the injured Paul Pogba.

5. The number 14 on Bakayoko's shirt, which he will continue to wear for his new club, is in reference to the 14th arrondissement of Paris where he grew up.

The lessons from Wimbledon 2017

Roger Federer and Garbine Muguruza were crowned Wimbledon champions after another dramatic fortnight at the All England Club.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at what we learned from this year's tournament.

1. Age is just a number

Federer will turn 36 next month but having won his second grand slam title in six months, he shows no sign of slowing down. The Swiss has rested his body after taking the second half of last year off and then sitting out the clay-court season just gone to hit the summer fresh. Both moves have paid off and with two of his key rivals in Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray floundering, he may well have a few more majors in him yet. Venus Williams also chalked one up for the old guard after she made her first Wimbledon final for eight years at the age of 37.

2. Serena's successors are coming

Serena Williams' absence was always going to open the door to the chasing pack. Muguruza, at 23, has won her second grand slam title and now looks primed finally to establish herself among the elite. The 20-year-old Jelena Ostapenko backed up her French Open triumph with a run to the quarter-finals and who could forget Johanna Konta, the new world number four, who looks all the way a major champion of the future? Throw in 19-year-old Naomi Osaka, 21-year-old Donna Vekic and 25-year-old Coco Vandeweghe, and it is a clear a new crop of challengers is ready to



Johanna Konta

emerge.

3. Give women equal billing on show courts

Midway through this tournament the age-old debate about scheduling resurfaced and maybe the time has come for Wimbledon to react. In the first seven days, when the men and women's

draw ran concurrently, 14 men's matches were put on Centre Court, with only eight coming from the women's draw. Wimbledon insists these are the marquee matches crowds pay to see, but none of the other grand slams show such gender bias. In fact, this year's women's tournament was arguably more exciting than the men's, with the likes of Kon-

ta, Angelique Kerber, Muguruza and Simona Halep delivering the most nerve-shredding matches of the fortnight. How will spectators learn to love the leading female players if they see them half as often?

4. Murray and Djokovic need a holiday

It is no coincidence that the two outstanding figures in the men's game in the last two years are both crocked. Murray's hip problem did for him against Sam Querrey and becomes the latest in a long line of ailments this year. Djokovic retired against Tomas Berdych with an elbow injury, which he said he has been suffering from for more than a year and a half. There is a psychological element too. Murray and Djokovic need only look at Roger Federer, back after taking the second half of 2016 off, to see the benefit a break can bring. The US Open is only six weeks away, but for Murray and Djokovic there might be long-term gains to be taken from a short hiatus.

6. Konta really can win at Wimbledon

Regular observers of Konta's progress over the last two years have seen her become a genuine grand slam contender, but one big question remained unanswered: her form at Wimbledon. Whether it was the grass, tough draws or the pressure of a home tournament, Konta had won only one match in five main-draw appearances prior to this year. Any doubts, however, have vanished. Konta stormed through a tough section of the draw to reach the semi final.

Book review

The Descent
By Thomas Dekker

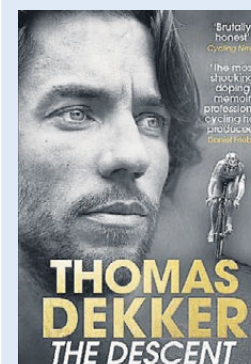
Sportsbookofthethmonth.com price: £9.09 (PB) saving 10% on rrp

The Descent is a sports book with a difference. It's not often that prior to its official launch, an author says he doesn't care whether his book sells a single copy (his publishers may feel otherwise), but former professional cyclist Thomas Dekker clearly isn't particularly fussed: "I just felt that I needed to write this story down," he told one interviewer by way of cathartic justification.

However, we should be glad that Dekker submitted his often hedonistic, occasionally sordid tale to print. Moreover, given its riotous, frequently Bacchanalian nature, there's every chance it'll become a huge best-seller.

While his star was still in the ascendant, Thomas Dekker represented the Netherlands at the Athens Olympics and after turning professional, he won the Tirreno-Adriatico in 2006 and the Tour de Romandie the following year.

Desperate to be accepted as one of the gang, Dekker tells of



his introduction to pro-cycling's highest echelons, an episode which involves a towel, a team-mate and a porn movie; it was, ahem, unconventional, but it sets the tone for a compelling tale of excess.

You sense his descent began the day he walked in to his German hotel room and introduced himself to his Rabobank team-mate assigned to look after him, though we're unsure whether a porn movie was part of Dekker's induction. Sure enough, before long, Dekker is as accomplished at doping as he is adept at blood transfusions. He would serve a two-year ban for drug-taking, but this appears to have had little effect.

Refreshingly, Dekker acknowledges that he only has himself to blame for wrecking such a promising career. In an age when far too many people apportion the responsibility for their predicament on someone else, Dekker has no desire to be considered a 'victim'. In an interview prior to the book's UK launch, Dekker maintained that *The Descent* is "...not a publicity book for myself...It's honest [and] I'm not blaming anybody else."

What a relief it is to hear a former pro sportsman take responsibility for his actions. Perhaps this is what makes *The Descent* so different; it certainly accounts for it being unputdownable.

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PINK

'Why Mourinho is number one for me' - Begovic



Jose Mourinho

CHERRIES goalkeeper Asmir Begovic felt Antonio Conte was just what Chelsea needed - but named Jose Mourinho as the best manager he worked under at Stamford Bridge.

Mourinho signed Begovic from Stoke in 2015 but the Portuguese only lasted until December that year before Guus Hiddink and then Conte took charge.

Begovic featured only twice in the Premier League under Conte last term and has now joined Bournemouth, where he can expect to be first-choice under his new boss Eddie Howe.

Conte led Chelsea to the Premier League title in his debut season in England but Begovic was in no doubt about which Blues coach he rated best.

"The best manager I've worked under - and it was a shame it was for such a short time - was Mourinho," Begovic said.

"The way he thinks about the game, the way he works with players was incredible to see.

"Obviously, he brought me to Chelsea so I'm grateful to him for that.

"I was lucky to play under many good managers but I would definitely put him on top of the pile. I learned a lot from him in the short space of time we worked together."

Conte eased uncertainty surrounding his own future at Chelsea last week by signing a new two-year contract.

Begovic feels the Italian arrived at the right time for the club.

"Conte was good. He was very

intense, very intense in his work, very driven in his structure and the way of playing," Begovic said.

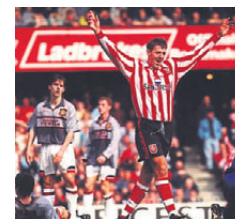
"That's what we needed after a year of turmoil. It was important to buy into the philosophy as a team and the structure. That's what we did."

Begovic admitted his farewell with Conte was brief.

"It was very quick. 'Good luck'. I wished him all the best, it was simple as that," Begovic said.

"We had a couple of conversations but he left the decision up to me. He respected my wishes to want to achieve a new challenge. He was respectful of that.

"There was not much pull from him. I did my bit and was professional there and played my part. It was time to move on."



Mat Le Tissier scores against a grey kit wearing United in 1996.

Grey days are back

Manchester United have unveiled a new third kit in grey, the first time they have used the colour since the team's memorable half-time shirt swap in 1996.

United have released images of the new fan-designed strip, which features a silhouette of the 'Holy Trinity' statue of Sir Bobby Charlton, George Best and Denis Law, but the most striking aspect for fans whose memories stretch back 21 years is the familiar hue.

United were wearing their grey shirt for the fifth time when they took on Saints on April 13 1996 and went in at half-time nursing a 3-0 deficit.

A furious Sir Alex Ferguson ordered his side to swap to a blue and white kit during the break, with bright sunshine seemingly rendering the shirts hard to make out at distance.

United took just one point from their five matches in the kit and Ferguson said at the time: "The players don't like grey strip. The players couldn't pick each other out. They said it was difficult to see their team-mates at distance when they lifted their heads."

"It was nothing to do with superstition. This club went 26 years without winning the league and we didn't think about changing the red shirts. It's nothing to do with that at all."

United, who went on to win the Premier League title, were fined by the FA as a result, with Ferguson quoted as saying it was "the best £10,000 I ever spent".

Explaining the process behind the latest design, United said: "All submitted kits were voted on by fans in a 'battlemode' that saw the most popular kits shortlisted to a top 100. The winners for each club were then chosen by an expert panel of some of the clubs' most iconic players and a design by Aniello Carotenuto came out on top at United."

"The kit represents the powerful bond between the team and our fans."

"The light grey shirt is designed with a graphic showing the silhouette of the famous 'Holy Trinity' statue (which) represents a golden era for the club and this unique history was the inspiration for the new third kit."

Moss helped sell Cherries to Asmir

ASMR Begovic revealed how he had sounded out ex-Saint Neil Moss ahead of his summer move to Cherries - the man he displaced at Dean Court a decade ago.

Begovic arrived on loan at Cherries from Portsmouth ahead of the 2007-08 season and was preferred ahead of Moss in the number one role by boss Kevin Bond.

Then a 20-year-old finding his way in the game, the promising stopper made nine appearances for the Dorset club - eight of which were in League One - as Moss was forced to settle for a place on the bench.

However, now the tables have turned with Moss being Cherries goalkeeping coach and Begovic part of the group of stoppers working under his charge.

The former Stoke City ace maintained a positive relationship with Moss throughout his career and admitted he had sought Moss's advice prior to his permanent switch from Chelsea.

Begovic - who four years ago scored for Saints against Stoke with a long kick that sailed over his new team-mate Artur Boruc - said: "It's crazy how it's gone full circle."

"Back then, I was a young goalkeeper coming through the ranks and he was an established one who had played a big part in Bournemouth's history."

"We had a good relationship and he was one of the people I spoke to before I came here and everything he said was positive."

"He was very positive about the



New signing Asmir Begovic and, right, ex-Saint Neil Moss.



club, the manager, the players and the group of goalkeepers. He gave me a good feeling about what the club does and how they handle their business on a daily basis."

"I was really attracted by the whole situation and the words he said."

"Having worked with him now, he is a fantastic coach as well as Anthony White, who assists him."

"We are a really good group and I've really enjoyed working with everyone so far."

During six-and-a-half years at

Pompey in the early stages of his career, Begovic experienced temporary stints at a string of clubs, including Cherries.

And the Bosnia and Herzegovina international, who won the Premier League with Chelsea last term, admitted the lessons of his loan at Dean Court had provided an important grounding for the career he had subsequently enjoyed.

He added: "It was a great experience at Bournemouth. I was only here for a handful of games but it was the first time I had played at

League One level.

"Of course, I made some mistakes but, overall, I enjoyed the experience."

"Mistakes are part of the process. For young players, you have to be thrown out there. Playing men's football is different to playing youth football or reserve football. So when I was thrown into first-team action, it was new to me."

"You will do some good things but the mistakes will always be there as well. That's just part of being a young player."

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